



Feline Conservation Federation
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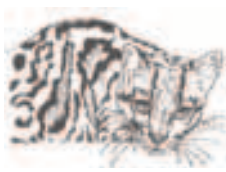
TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FCF JOURNAL AND JOIN FCF IN ITS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

A membership to FCF entitles you to six issues of this journal, the back-issue DVD, an invitation to the convention, and participation in our discussion groups. Your membership helps the conservation of exotic felines through support of habitat protection and conservation, education, and breeding programs. Send \$35 (\$40 Canada, \$50 international) to FCF, 4403 S. 334th E Ave, Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Members are invited to participate in email list discussions online at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/The_FCF

Cover: Zuzana Kukol's ocelot Isis. **Inside:** Black leopard, Jamma, of Serenity Springs Wildlife Center. Photo copyright by Caz Oswald.



This magazine is published bimonthly by the Feline Conservation Federation. We are a non-profit (Federal ID# 59-2048618) non-commercial organization with international membership, devoted to the welfare of exotic felines. The purpose of this publication is to present information about exotic feline conservation, management, and ownership to our members. The material printed is contributed by our members and reflects the point of view of the author but does not necessarily represent the point of view of the organization. FCF's Statement of Intent is contained in our bylaws, a copy of which can be requested from the secretary. Reproduction of the material in this magazine may not be made without the written permission of the original copyright owners and/or copyright owner FCF. We encourage all members to contribute articles. Articles on exotic feline ownership, husbandry, veterinary care, conservation and legislation are gladly accepted. Articles involving other related subjects will also be considered. Letters and responses to articles may be included in the Readers Write column. Submission deadline for the next issue is the second Friday of even numbered months. Please submit all photos and articles to the editor. Persons interested in joining FCF should consult instructions on inside front cover of this journal.

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Letter from the President

I would like to welcome the newest members to the FCF family of workers which were appointed at the January 24 board of directors meeting.

Patty Perry from California was appointed to the vacant position of Vice President. We're looking forward to working with Patty.

Lynn Culver was selected to fill the new Executive Director position. Lynn's vast knowledge of the organization and proven work record made her the board's choice.

Caroline Alexander now heads up a newly-formed Wildcat Safety Net committee. Caroline needs help promoting this fund that transports cats in emergency situations. If this sounds like a job for you, contact Lynn, Caroline, or me.

Carol Cochran was appointed Region 3 Director, representing Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. State representatives for region 3 are needed and Carol will be working to fill these positions with qualified volunteers.

Be sure to read about the project being spearheaded by Dr. Jim Sanderson to establish a permanent research and conservation presence in the Andean mountains. I'm

proud to announce that the co-managed FCF/T.I.G.E.R.S. Rare Species Fund is pledging \$5,000 for this and I personally challenge the FCF members to match this pledge to support conservation of Andean cats.

In my last letter I told you about our new address using Earth Class Mail service. Turns out the idea was great, the service was not. We cancelled our contract and will be using the address of our treasurer Kurt Beckelman for FCF correspondence. Please mail your renewals, handler, and convention registration forms to: FCF, 4403 S. 334th E Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 47014.

Dan Stockdale and his convention committee have been hard at work putting together details for the 2009 FCF convention. Some last minute developments have afforded FCF the opportunity to hold this year's event in Monterey/Salinas, California. Things are shaping up to be another outstanding convention, hosted by Charlie Sammut and Vision Quest Ranch. You'll get to meet plenty of feline friends there.

A couple new events planned for this convention are the educator's course and a special training seminar for registered han-

dlers. The educator's course will be held Wednesday at the same time as the husbandry course and will give a solid background to educators and members interested in developing an education program. Ron DeArmond, vice president of the Professional Wildlife Educators Association and FCF Director of Marketing, is developing this one-day course. Raising public awareness of feline conservation issues helps to insure survival of wildcats and their owners. On Saturday, Charlie Sammut will lead a seminar on techniques for training wild felids to registered handlers only.

I would like to thank Jim and Bertie Broadus for hosting the recent husbandry course at the Gulf Coast Community College. Congratulations to the 20 students who graduated. A Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission officer in attendance stated that it exceeded his expectations and he was extremely pleased with the FCF educational program. You'll have other opportunities to take the FCF husbandry course in Florida, Oklahoma, and California this year.

The legislation season is in full swing so please take the time to introduce yourself to your legislators and let them know that you are interested in bills that regulate private ownership. Currently there are bills being

FCF appoints Lynn Culver Executive Director

considered in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona, Missouri, and Oregon. Help your regional director by keeping them appraised and volunteer to be a state representative.

On the national/international legislative front, Robert Johnson is watching developments closely. To aid in this, the FCF has retained the services of one of the most influential environmental lobbyist and consulting firm in Washington, D.C. This firm will be sending a representative to the CITES Animal Committee meeting in April which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. There are many issues at this meeting that could impact international trade and follow back to changes being proposed in US laws. This firm will represent the FCF's interests and help FCF to make a global impact on legislation and regulations.

The FCF will have a booth at the America's Family Pet Expo in Costa Mesa, California on April 17-19. This event will expose over 60,000 expo goers to the Feline Conservation Federation. If you can volunteer as a booth operator for any of these three days, please contact me.

I hope you all set Goodsearch.com as your default search engine. By using GoodSearch, the FCF receives a small donation for each search you do. A couple of cents here and there may not sound like much but if over 800 members use it just once a day, FCF would gain several thousand dollars in a year's time. Also on both the FCF home page and store page is a link to the new Zazzle store where you can shop and order shirts, hats, ties, mugs and much, much more, all featuring our new FCF logo.

Finally, I want to remind all members with cats that FCF offers Feline Facility Accreditation for private and commercial facilities. This important program is in place and needs your participation to be effective. The more facilities recognized as operating with exceptional husbandry and management policies, the more respect will be given to both the facility and the FCF. In 2009 I would like to see at least a dozen more facilities accredited.

—Kevin Chambers

Lynn Culver, long time member, past secretary/treasurer, legal affairs director, life director, and the most recent past president, has been appointed to the newly-created position of executive director of the Feline Conservation Federation. The previous board had been developing this job description, expected duties, and relationship with the board over the past nine months. During the January 24, 2009 board meeting, the board voted unanimously to appoint Lynn Culver to this position.

The executive director is responsible for implementation of policies set by the board of directors, as well as annual goals and objectives and financial, program, and administrative management of the corporation.

The executive director will serve as an ex officio member on the board of directors

and facilitate the work of the board and its committees by developing resource materials, providing appropriate information and reports, and assist committee chairpersons as necessary.

The executive director will provide leadership for the implementation of new marketing strategies and organizational units to meet the board's growth objectives.

The executive director will provide advice and counsel to the board to assist in setting policies and monitoring the performance of the nonprofit. The executive director will recommend new policies, programs, and action plans consistent with the vision of the organization.

This is a paid position with an expected average of between 30 and 40 hours of performance weekly. •



FCF Gets a New Logo

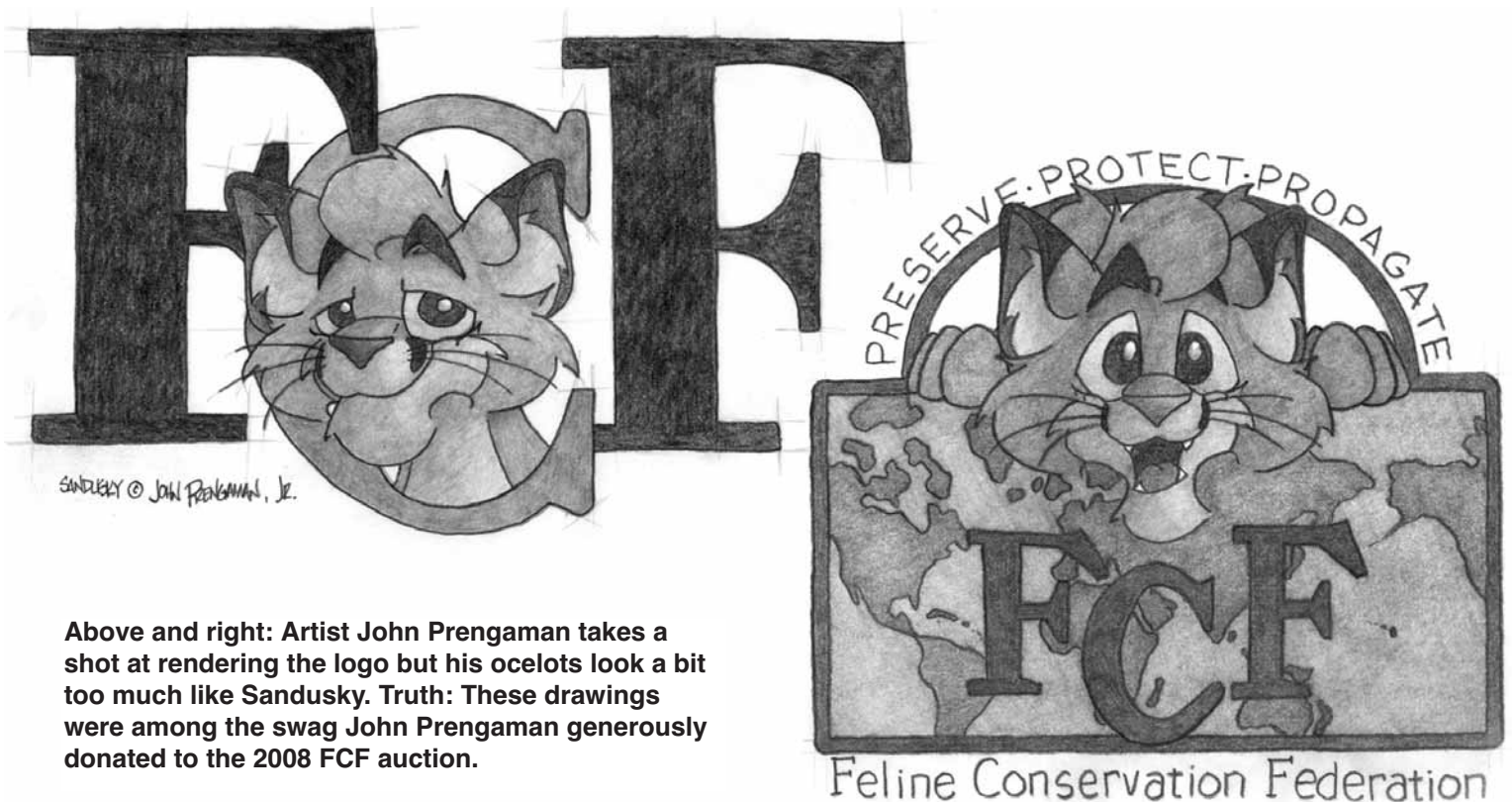
For the first time, the FCF Journal cover features the new FCF logo which members should recognize from the FCF web site. The familiar ocelot head inside the letter C of our old FCF logo is being phased out and this new FCF identity is being brought forward.

The new logo combines some of the old with some of the new. Font choice is consistent with the old. The featured feline, an ocelot, was chosen to honor the founding species that launched the Long Island Ocelot Club and continues with an updated photo that places the ocelot watching over the FCF.

What is completely new is the world map, denoting our international membership and global conservation involvement. The logo was created by our webmaster Chuck Bunnell and has been fine tuned for printing purposes by our member, Tammi Medina.

You can purchase items that feature our new logo in FCF's Zazzle store. Look for the ad in this journal issue and shop online for these products at the FCF web site: <http://www.felineconservation.org> •

Right: Tammi Medina's vector logo comp can be scaled to almost any size



Above and right: Artist John Pregelmann takes a shot at rendering the logo but his ocelots look a bit too much like Sandusky. Truth: These drawings were among the swag John Pregelmann generously donated to the 2008 FCF auction.

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Fearful Symmetry



Liz Rount

Stalk photo: Freya playing the predator

By Frank Pyne

“Oh look, we’re being stalked.”

Those words, which I heard in May of 2007, were my introduction to working with and around tigers. Those words seem to have stuck with me—it turns out that when you’re a complete neophyte to the world of large felines, and find yourself surrounded by enclosures which are home to a couple dozen, hearing that one has decided that you’re “what’s for lunch” makes something of an impression on you.

And it not only made an impression, it verified what I thought I knew about tigers: that they were huge, relentless killing machines—animals that have evolved over the last 80 million years into the perfect predators, each possessed of a singular purpose: gruesomely devouring 37 year old programmers (or whatever else might be in their vicinity).

I turned to peer in the direction that the Conservator Center staff member running our volunteer orientation was looking, and

saw...nothing. At least not any tigers licking their chops in anticipation of delicious me. But then my gaze fell upon the pair of glittering eyes peeking out from atop a large tub of water, which was sitting just inside one of the enclosures, accompanied by a stripy tail curling and uncurling in taut anticipation off to one side. Enter Freya, huntress extraordinaire. Freya was born at the Conservators’ Center in 2004, and has since distinguished herself as being one of the most predatory cats we have. If there are people around, she is stalking them. While she is nowhere near the largest tiger we have, there is a whole lot to be said for being svelte, quick, sneaky, and determined.

All of we new volunteers were informed that any items (or portions of our anatomy) that we would like to take home with us should probably stay at least five feet back from that particular enclosure. We all took this advice to heart, and my aforementioned belief about tigers and their behavior

was confirmed.

But to be fair, I did know that there was a bit more to tigers than simply being engines of destruction. I have seen nature programs where wildlife experts have raised tigers without any gruesome devouring taking place. There are different magicians who work with tigers who give hundreds and hundreds of performances with no incident. There are private owners of tigers, etc., so I was aware that it is possible for a tiger to be socialized and make the decision not to consume its caregivers. I did rather believe that if you are around a tiger that you had not raised yourself, it may be curious, perhaps aloof if they are feeling lazy, but that more than likely they would simply be a menacing presence in the background.

And then I met Jacob. Jacob is a fairly large, ten year old tiger who was seized from a facility by court order and was slated to be euthanized. To all appearances he is a doddering old tiger rapidly approach-

ing the end of his life. And while he was indeed a doddering, elderly-seeming tiger, his appearance wasn't the result of advanced age. Rather, he had been fed nothing but chicken quarters for years, so his appearance was actually due to severe malnutrition—and we found out later from his previous owner that Jacob was, in fact, only seven years old at the time of the seizure. Happily, we were able to take him in, get him the veterinary care he needed, and put him on a diet much more conducive to the well-being of tigers. In the three years he has been living with us, he has put on around 150 pounds, has adjusted really well to his new home, and is now a pretty happy tiger.

And that's what surprised me—not that he was abused and severely malnourished, as I had been ready to meet animals coming from situations like that—but that he seemed to have what I could best describe (perhaps a bit anthropomorphically) as a happy mood. When we, a small group of newbie volunteers, approached the enclosure where Jacob resides, he bounced over to the fence to meet us. And when I say bounced, I do mean “bounced” (not quite like Tigger from Winnie the Pooh, but he was trying), which was most decidedly not stalking and therefore very un-tiger-like in my now expert opinion. And as he got over to where we were standing, which was not quite five feet from the heavy-gauge steel of the enclosure's fence, he continued to exhibit behaviors that defied the tiger-logic of which I thought I knew. He was chuffing, and quite enthusiastically at that. The staff member informed us that this was a friendly tiger greeting noise, and that Jacob was just saying “hi” to everyone. Jacob later enlightened me that when some tigers chuff, they also spit, much like fire-hydrants do when the firemen open them to release pressure on the pipes. This chuffing was immediately followed up by Jacob turning sideways to the fence and rubbing his cheek ruff against it, and then he made little rumbles and maow noises. I would not have been much more surprised if he had started talking to us.

I commented on how surprised I was to the orientation leader, and asked why he wasn't acting like a tiger, “You know, like Freya.” She told us that not all tigers are like Freya, but that in her experience most tigers were a fair bit less predatory than

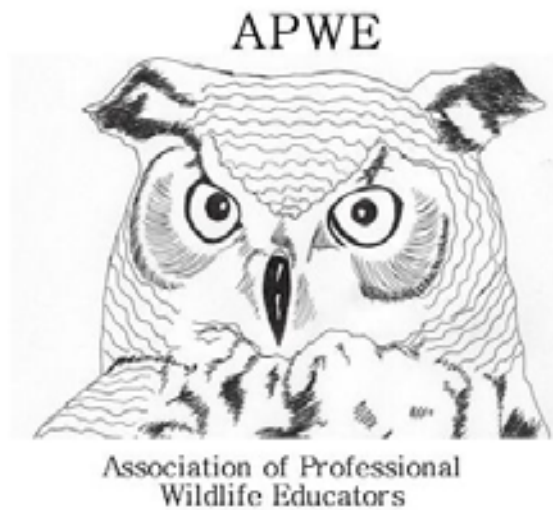
our little stalker-of-all-that-moves, and that furthermore, all tigers have their own unique personalities and quirks. This was another surprise, but of a different kind entirely; I had honestly never considered

that tigers would have personalities as such, and that these personalities could, and sometimes do, vary enormously from tiger to tiger.

For instance, a short while ago, we gave



Gentle Jacob playing with a li'l round tiger.



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some new boomer-balls to the lions and tigers. (A boomer-ball is a kickball-sized ball made from very high-density plastic and is tough enough to withstand being played with by the large felines, for a little while, anyway.) Most of the big cats, upon seeing something small and relatively quick-moving, come flying into their cages jumped up and pounced on them, batting them about as the quick motion triggered their prey-drives. And then there was Jacob. He was lying upon his side in his enclosure, peering at me curiously to see what I was up to. As the ball flew into his enclosure and hit the ground, Solida, the tigress with whom he shares his modest abode, started to go for it, but saw that it was rapidly approaching Jacob and so halted pursuit, deferring to her companion's own savage predation. Jacob, meanwhile, stayed on his side and watched the boomer-ball's approach. When it got within a few feet of him, he started chuffing to it; when it was within arm's reach, he put one massive paw atop it, drew it close, and started grooming it. You could just see the thought-bubble above his head: "Oh happy day! It's a li'l round tiger come to visit with me!" Bless his little heart.

I mentioned that a tigress named Solida shares Jacob's enclosure, and as different as Freya and Jacob are, Solida is yet another extreme. To say "to know her is to love her" is cliché to the point of being painful, but it is, nonetheless, apt. Solida has earned a place in the hearts of those of us who volunteer and work at CCI as being the sweetest tiger most of us have ever met. When Jacob isn't hogging all of the attention (My love...mine! Chuffle, spit), she will meander up to whomever is near their enclosure, chuff and rub and lean against the fence, then just hang out in the company of her human visitors and hope that someone brings a hose over to water her—she loves that. A female in her late teens, Solida came to us from a situation where she was being kept in a very small cage, had a logging chain for a collar (which had grown into the skin of her neck), and was being used to breed litter after litter of cubs that were sold indiscriminately to anyone who had the money to buy one. We agreed to take her in when her previous owner decided that she was getting too old for breeding, and that it was about time to shoot her. It's worth mentioning that at the time we rescued Solida,

she had been living near a beach for about ten years, and had virtually no shelter from the wind. As a result, her paw pads and nose leather were cracked, bleeding and much akin to coarse-grit sandpaper. I mention this in context of Solida's sweet disposition, because the way the keepers tended to her poor nose was to use a paintbrush to rub Burt's Bees™ balm on it, the tigress sitting there placidly and seeming to enjoy the attention a great deal. By contrast, I could easily imagine that were a keeper to attempt this with Freya, she would remove their fingers at about the shoulder.

I want to make sure, at this point, that this little article isn't coming across as though it is meant to be some sort of definitive treatise on the behavior of tigers; I have barely begun getting to know these amazing creatures. I simply wanted to share what I have been pleasantly surprised to learn from our tigers in the relatively short time that I have spent around them, that

they are not all simply one-dimensional apex-predators possessed of the single-minded purpose of hunting all that has the misfortune of crossing their path. The tigers have taught me that while some of them are of a ferocious bent such as Freya, there are tigers that are on the other end of the continuum such as Solida. And then there are tigers like Jacob, who is, well, Jacob.

I suppose I should also mention the newest tiger to join our family, Arthur. Arthur is a little tiger cub that was seized in a case of rather appalling abuse and neglect. When he arrived, he wasn't much more than a little skeleton covered in fur. He's made a rather remarkable comeback in the few short months that he has been with us, and is now a happy, healthy, and very playful young tiger. So playful, in fact, that he seems to believe it's his solemn duty to convince me that my initial belief about tigers was the correct one after all. I find that there's a certain symmetry to that, one I can't help but enjoy. •



Sweet Solida

Why Register My Experience?

How the Registered Feline Handler Program Can Help You and FCF

Your feline handler registration is now valid as long as you are an active FCF member. Handlers will be sent annual e-mail reminders to update their file. This online registration will feed into an automatically updated list of handlers in the members-only web site. For anyone who registered prior to the implementation of the online registration, we will begin entering their files on the web site so that these handlers can easily update their registration using the Internet. When you update, your file will show your previous registration input so you can review it before adding new information.

The board has voted to make these changes to the system because it believes very strongly in the need to document our collective husbandry knowledge and experience. By automating much of the data management, we will be able to better handle this resource and perpetually maintain it

while keeping down the cost to members. Registered handlers will continue to be published in the journal and this status will be noted on their annual membership card.

For the FCF, these handler registrations serve to document the collective wisdom and experience of our membership. It gives the FCF facts to utilize in press releases, legislative comments, and to the media.

The registered handler program was a topic of discussion on the FCF internet list. Several misconceptions surfaced that I would like to clarify for everyone. The FCF registers; it does not certify its member's feline handling experience. Some members questioned the value of a registration and requested we instead offer certification and substantiate information submitted on the applications.

To certify handler applications would be time consuming and even with the best efforts, false information might not be

uncovered. If the handler was certified, the FCF could be held liable. This is not the best use of the FCF resources and at this time such a service would be more draining on our volunteer staff than of benefit to the organization.

The FCF registration process is potentially more accurate because there is less motivation or temptation for anyone to falsify their experience. The handler registration is an honor system. The secretary reviews each file. If an obvious discrepancy is discovered, the registration may be denied. The FCF Registered Feline Handler application clearly states that providing false information is grounds for termination of registration, and under some circumstances may lead to revocation of membership in the FCF.

So exactly what is the benefit to you, in participating in the FCF registered handler program?

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By building a comprehensive and detailed handler experience registration with the FCF, you are guaranteed of having this information stored and available in the future. You have a respected third party who can verify the dates of documents you submitted when the existence of these documents might come into question. You never know what kind of state, local, or federal legislation may be passed someday and how your file may aid you.

The handler registration can also serve as a document to help establish prior or ongoing feline ownership if the experience is tied to a feline you own. In this case, the registration should state the name of the facility where the felines were transferred from, the USDA information, a copy of the transfer papers. Someday, having these papers dated by the FCF could assist when moving to another state or locality.

Here is how to add weight to a registered handler file: If you have completed the FCF husbandry course, state the date of your graduation in your registered handler file. Additionally, the FCF can certify your attendance through its sign-up sheets and completed tests.

If you have ever been trained at a zoo, sanctuary, or school, enter it into the registration as well. If you have volunteered somewhere, state the time period you did so, your duties performed, and provide the name and contact info for the facility where you gained experience in the handler registration. If you are state licensed or USDA licensed, include a photocopy of your licenses.

You may also submit to the FCF secretary letters from former employers, associates, or those in authority who can substantiate your registration. Send them by regular mail and these documents will be added to your registration.

Imagine the frustration of wanting to apply for a job, or an internship, or gaining another feline permit, and having to compose this from scratch. If you start a handler registration file now and continue to

build on it as time passes, you always have an accurate resume ready to go.

...perhaps the Registered Feline Handlers only training session taught by Charlie Sammut at this year's FCF convention will motivate you to register.

The registration is only limited in usefulness by your lack of attention to detail. The FCF handler registration is a permanent file, available to you when you need it. To me, that is a bonus because sometimes I can spend forever looking for paperwork.

The registration is now \$30 for every person, but it lasts forever and you can add

to your file as often as necessary. You should update annually if you are actively handling felines.

If I have not convinced you to register yet, perhaps the Registered Feline Handlers only training session taught by Charlie Sammut at this year's FCF convention will motivate you to register. The class is limited to FCF members who are registered as basic or advanced handlers. This private training session with one of Hollywood's most respected animal trainers will add to your continuing education experience and certainly be something worthy of mention on your annual registration update. •

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Small Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	1.90 - 2.40	100
Large Pinkies:	\$0.16	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.13	\$0.12	0.50 - 1.00	2.50 - 3.00	100
Peach Fuzzies:	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.15	1.00 - 1.25	3.10 - 4.40	100
Fuzzies:	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.15	1.25 - 1.50	4.50 - 7.00	100
Hoppers:	\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.22	1.50 - 2.00	8.00 - 12.00	100
Weanlings:	\$0.40	\$0.38	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.32	2.00 - 2.50	13.00 - 19.00	50
Large Adults:	\$0.45	\$0.43	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.37	2.50 - 3.00	20.00 - 29.00	50
X-Large Adults:	\$0.55	\$0.53	\$0.51	\$0.49	\$0.47	3.00 - 3.75	30.00 - 50.00	25

* We offer combined quantity discount mouse pricing. * Measurement does not include tail length.

Rats



Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Length (inches)	Weight (grams)	Count
Pinkies:	\$0.39	\$0.34	\$0.29	1.50 - 2.00	3.00 - 8.00	100
Fuzzies:	\$0.49	\$0.44	\$0.39	2.00 - 2.50	9.00 - 19.00	100
Pups:	\$0.79	\$0.74	\$0.69	2.50 - 3.50	20.00 - 29.00	25
Weaned:	\$0.89	\$0.84	\$0.79	3.50 - 4.50	30.00 - 44.00	25
Small:	\$0.99	\$0.94	\$0.89	4.50 - 6.00	45.00 - 84.00	20
Medium:	\$1.39	\$1.34	\$1.29	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.00	10
Large:	\$1.49	\$1.44	\$1.39	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.00	5
X-Large:	\$1.59	\$1.54	\$1.49	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.00	3
XX-Large:	\$1.79	\$1.74	\$1.69	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.00	2
XXX-Large:	\$1.99	\$1.94	\$1.89	11.00 - 13.00	475.00 - 600.00+	2

* We offer combined quantity discount rat pricing. * Measurement does not include tail length.

Coturnix Quail



Size	Less than 500	500	1000+	Grams	Oz.	Count
1 Day:	\$0.34	\$0.29	\$0.24	7.50 - 10.00	.25	100
1 Week:	\$0.64	\$0.59	\$0.54	30.00 - 40.00	1.0	25
2 Week:	\$0.84	\$0.79	\$0.74	50.00 - 75.00	2.5	10
3 Week:	\$1.04	\$0.99	\$0.94	100.00 - 125.00	4.0	10
6 Week:	\$1.34	\$1.24	\$1.14	130.00 - 150.00	5.0	5
8 Week:	\$1.44	\$1.34	\$1.24	155.00 - 185.00	6.5	5
10 Week:	\$1.64	\$1.54	\$1.44	190.00 - 225.00	8.0	5

* We offer combined quantity discount quail pricing.

Rabbits



Size	Our Price	Weight (lbs.)	Count
X-Small:	\$3.50	0.50 - 0.75	1
Small:	\$4.50	1.00 - 1.75	1
Medium:	\$5.50	2.00 - 3.75	1
Large:	\$6.50	4.00 - 5.75	1
X-Large:	\$7.00	6.00 - 7.75	1
XX-Large:	\$8.00	8.00 - 9.75	1
XXX-Large:	\$9.00	10.00 - 11.75+	1

Chicks

Size	Less than 500	500	1000	5000	10000+	Grams	Ounces	Count
Small:	\$0.25	\$0.20	\$0.15	\$0.12	\$0.10	30.00 - 35.00	1.0	25



Guinea Pigs

Size	Less Than 500	500	1000+	Inches	Grams	Count
Medium:	\$1.39	\$1.34	\$1.29	6.00 - 8.00	85.00 - 174.00	10
Large:	\$1.49	\$1.44	\$1.39	8.00 - 9.00	175.00 - 274.00	5
X-Large:	\$1.59	\$1.54	\$1.49	9.00 - 11.00	275.00 - 374.00	3
XX-Large:	\$1.79	\$1.74	\$1.69	11.00 - 13.00	375.00 - 474.00	2
XXX-Large:	\$1.99	\$1.94	\$1.89	11.00 - 13.00	475.00 - 600.00	2
XXXX-Large:	\$2.29	\$2.24	\$2.19	13.00 - 15.00	601.00 - 900.00+	1

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The Sacred Cat of the Andes

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.
Wildlife Conservation Network
Small Cat Conservation Alliance
IUCN Cat Specialist Group
and
Lilian Villalba, M.Sc.
Alianza Gato Andino
Colección Boliviana de Fauna
IUCN Cat Specialist Group

With exquisite timing, the exciting news reached us in La Paz, Bolivia during a recent meeting of Alianza Gato Andino (AGA), an organization dedicated to conservation efforts of the Andean cat (*Leopardus jacobita*) throughout its geographic range in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Perú.

The international model and movie star, Isabella Rossellini, daughter of screen legend, Ingrid Bergmann, had donated to AGA half of her \$100,000 Disney Wildlife Conservation Award she had received for her tireless efforts to protect wildlife. To all of us at the AGA meeting, Isabella's commitment to wildlife conservation and love of Andean cats came as no surprise.

The Andean cat is the least known cat in the western hemisphere. Gato Andino is also one of only four cats considered Endangered by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group making it the America's most threatened cat species. Three Asian species—bay cat, snow leopard, and tiger—also share this dubious distinction.

The Andean cat was described to science by Cornalia, an Italian, in 1865. However, so little was known of this high Andes specialist that most natural history books written before 1900 neglected to

include it when describing the world's living cat species.

By 1998 several Andean cats had been photographed and accounts of two encounters were published. Remarkably, both publications stated that the cat seemed to ignore the presence of human observers who were able to approach the cat and obtain very clear photographs.

In mid-1998, a photograph taken by a tourist visiting Salar de Surire in northern Chile of what was clearly an Andean cat, was provided to Jim Sanderson by Agustin Iriarte working in wildlife conservation in the Chilean government. This photograph led to another close encounter of the third kind in November, 1998. This time the

encounter was between an Andean cat and Jim Sanderson, a member of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group (Sanderson & Iriarte 1999 *Cat News*). Supported by a National Geographic Society grant, Jim Sanderson settled in at Salar de Surire in October 1998 to look for an orange metal pole that appeared in the photograph of the Andean cat. As fate would have it, the pole was just behind his accommodation, the so-called "ice box," a dilapidated trailer in a valley 4300m above sea level, surrounded by snow-capped peaks.

After setting more than a dozen live traps, on November 12 the daily routine of checking live traps was suddenly broken when Jim followed and photographed an Andean cat male for more than four hours. However, the cat eluded his live traps. During this encounter Jim was able to approach the cat to within three meters and in fact the cat ignored his presence. The cat even licked itself and napped while Jim approached it.

Andean local people living in nearby small villages reported that wild
c a t s



Jim Sanderson



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were now very rare, none had been seen in quite some time, and the cats were likely no longer present in the area, but that if any were seen could they please be notified. When asked how they obtained the skins of the cat, women invariably gave the same response: “We drop a rock on them.” The profound significance of so simple a statement—we drop a rock on them—would come back to haunt Jim Sanderson.

Similar information was obtained from interviewed local people when Lilian Villalba and her colleague Nuria Bernal were working during 1998 and 1999, looking for the Andean cat at different Andean localities in Bolivia.

One common news to both countries caught our eyes: Native Americans of the high Andes considered wild cats sacred animals because they are the symbol of abundance and fertility but they also use them dead and dried in ritual ceremonies related with crops and native herds. It would not be until later that the published remarks and the significance of superstitious beliefs would come together to galvanize action.

At every opportunity, from every platform, we talked about the plight of the



An Andean cat peeks over a rock in Salar de Surire, Chile.



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Andean cat hunting.

Andean cat but because we had just three well-documented encounters and virtually no hard data, scientific publications were not going to aid our case. Without data, we were just ordinary citizens with opinions. No data meant no chance of further funding, and no funding assured that no data or conservation measures would be forthcoming.

In 1999, researchers from the four Andean cat range countries gave birth to the Andean Cat Conservation Committee, predecessor of AGA, and diverse cooperative actions were carried out in the following years. In 2003 these cross-border conservation efforts shifted into high gear, when Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN), a not-for-profit organization founded by Akiko Yamazaki, Charlie Knowles, and John Lukas, chose to support Andean cat conservation in all four range countries.

April 2004, was a remarkable month for the members of AGA. During an AGA meeting in Arica, Chile, the first Andean cat conservation Action Plan was discussed. In Jujuy Province, Argentina two encounters and the first photos of an Andean cat was taken (Lucherini et al., 2004 *Cat News*) and in Bolivia as a part of a radio telemetry study the first ever Andean cat was live captured (Delgado et al. 2004 *Cat News*).

Ten hours south of Uyuni, Bolivia and just north of the Argentinean frontier lies Khastor, an uninhabited region of salt lakes, and bofedales—grassy areas supplied by glacial waters—traditionally used as llama summer feedings grounds. Lilian Villalba and Eliseo Delgado, a park guard, have been working since 2001 in Khastor and camera trapped three Andean cats. During the first months of 2004, a female Andean cat had been seen using a small cave just over the edge of a precipice and was habituated to get into an inactive live trap.

Early on the morning of April 25, 2004, the trap door of a live trap was closed and inside was an Andean cat, one day before the trap was baited just before sunset. The cat, an adult female weighing 10 pounds, was sedated using a light drug dose and a two ounce radio-collar was fit-

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ted on her. The group was observed by a male Andean cat just a short distance away. Her release went smoothly and nine months of radio-tracking at 4200-4600m followed.

Theory says that the home range of a cat is proportional to its body weight and elevation. Though the Andean cat is a small cat, it lives at high elevation and so has a very large home range. In this area the

main prey is the mountain viscacha (*Lagidium viscaccia*), colonial rodents, weighting about two pounds. Results of the radio-telemetry effort showed that the cat spends a few days hunting and resting at a viscacha colony, before it moves on to another colony that might be a few miles distant. We now have a much better understanding of the landscape characteristics that support



Jim Sanderson and Andean cat

Constanza Napolitano



From left: Constanza Napolitano, Lilian Villabla
with Andean cat, and Eliseo del Gado.

an adequate prey base and therefore minimum requirements for the Andean cat. We also know where to look for caves and fecal deposits.

AGA groups in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru continue to document the presence of Andean cats with camera traps and other survey techniques, and have improved the range map of the Andean cat with molecular analysis of fecal material.

AGA has also produced educational material for schools within the geographic range of the Andean cat and hired teachers to visit schools to bring the conservation message to children whose influence on their parents should not be underestimated. Consultations with village leaders regarding our conservation efforts is also producing positive results and helping to reduce Andean cat killings.

The high Andean native American cultures such as the Aymara, may well be facing cultural extinction themselves. Through improved radio and television reception, realization that a very different and very appealing lifestyle can be had at lower elevations causes many of their children to leave as soon as they are able and never return. Without a written language, their history, life experiences, and legends cannot be recorded in their own words.

With continued education programs, the Andean cat's future will likely not be threatened by dropped rocks. With vital support provided by WCN day-by-day, the battle to conserve Andean cats in their native habitat is moving slowly in our favor. But this does not give us pause to relax because a new and more widespread threat has already begun to evidence itself. The glaciers that feed the bofedals, streams, and rivers that are the lifeblood of the Andes are shrinking. The Andean cat has apparently survived direct persecution by humans armed only with rocks. Will it survive modern human's indirect assault? Continued conservation efforts for the western hemisphere's most endangered cat, the Andean cat, remain essential. For more information visit:

<http://www.wildnet.org>
and
<http://www.smallcats.org> •

The Establishment of the Andean Cat Conservation and Monitoring Center

Jim Sanderson, Ph.D.

Small Cat Conservation Alliance

My colleagues at Wildlife Conservation Network have demonstrated the effect of establishing a long-term presence, a base of operations, to work with local communities and to monitor populations of wildlife. Conservation efforts on behalf of cheetahs, elephants, and African wild dogs, for instance, have yielded significant gains. A special edition of *IUCN Cat News* was recently published for cheetahs. Creation of a permanent conservation and monitoring station for many small cats, such as the Andean cat and Pampas cat, has been severely handicapped by a lack of knowledge of just where the cats occur.

In 1998, following my successful study

of the guíña, I decided to look for the most elusive wild cat in the Americas, the Andean cat (*Leopardus jacobita*). Until my efforts, just two photographs had been published of the Andean cat (one more than the guíña). Indeed, the name *jacobita* had near-mythical connotations. Shortly after my photograph of the Andean cat appeared in the February 2000 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, people would say to me, “So you’re the guy who found *jacobita*.” It was indeed a magical moment.

During the past decade my colleagues, notably the 40+ people working under the umbrella of the Andean Cat Alliance (AGA, a WCN partner organization) in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru, I, enabled by your generous help, have improved our understanding of the geographic distribution of the Andean cat. Armed with this hard-won information, and a much-improved appreciation of threats to the Andean cat, we can now identify several areas where the population of Andean cats is significant and where local communities are supportive of conservation actions.

Two regions within the greater geographic range of the Andean cat (that also includes Pampas cats) contain what I refer to as high value conservation areas. These are shown as the light circles in the adjacent map. These areas are the international tri-borders of Bolivia-Chile-Peru in the north and Argentina-Bolivia-Chile in the southwest of Bolivia. This is not to suggest that other areas are less important, only that we know that cats and communities occur in these two regions. In summary, in one decade 1998-2008 we have come from very little is known to much is known about the Andean cat and the threats it faces. We can also say with certainty: the Andean cat is the most threatened cat in the Americas and the only IUCN Red List Endangered cat in the Americas.

We have come a long way in a decade. Now let’s create an effective conservation program just as my WCN colleagues have done elsewhere, most notably in Africa.

Why is monitoring necessary?

A few months ago the co-chairs of the



Indigenous people turn Andean cats into talismans.

Cat Specialist Group asked if I could give a presentation on small cats at an art exhibit opening. During my presentation, I heard myself saying something like the following:

Conservationists concerned with the Andean cat have two problems that must be addressed. First, indigenous people attribute supernatural powers to wild cats; these powers can be harnessed by killing the cat, decorating it, and displaying the dead cat. If this is not bad enough, we have a second problem: Andean cats show no fear of people; they do not run away. I then added: traditional use has a significant negative impact on the Andean cat population.

Though I continued my talk, my brain was gripped on what I had just said. I had absolutely no data to show that traditional use had a negative impact on the Andean cat population. It sounded good of course, and it makes sense, but it might well not be true at all. Perhaps the fact that local people eat mountain viscachas, the main prey item of the Andean cat, might have a more profound impact on Andean cat populations. Perhaps global warming was causing streams and hence forage for mountain viscachas to disappear. Without data, all I had was belief, not knowledge. Indeed, I did not even know if the population of cats was increasing or decreasing. Not knowing the population trend of the Andean cat meant that I could not say what impacts, if any,



Light colored circles show the high value conservation areas of the Andean cat.



Map showing San Pedro de Atacama in Chile

outside threats were having on the population of Andean cats. Population estimates were needed to reach any conclusions and this requires a sample census and estima-

parks.

Briefly, San Pedro de Atacama (SPdA) can be reached by paved road from the port city of Antofagasta, or the interior city of

tion. In any case, threats must still be monitored and perhaps mitigated.

With the progress we have made, we are now in a position to create an Andean cat conservation and monitoring station. We know where two such stations can be located. One such place is in San Pedro de Acatama, Chile on the Argentina-Bolivia-Chile border on the above map.

The adjacent map shows the port city of Antofagasta. A paved road leads northeast to Calama, and the east-south-east to San Pedro de Atacama. Across the border in Bolivia is a national park (gray). There are several national parks in Chile in the region but indigenous people were there first and so continue to live in the

Calama, both of which are served by direct passenger jet flights from Santiago. I rented an Avis car and the drive to San Pedro was less than 90 minutes. SPdA, though a small village, is a tourist center where geysers and hot springs attract people from all over the world. SPdA's elevation is 2800m and the climate is comfortable and nearly constant throughout the year.

Though precipitation is rare, SPdA is fed by a permanent stream. There are many hotels, restaurants, and shops. Indigenous people live in SPdA and smaller communities are located through the higher Andes where the Andean cat occurs. Bolivia and Argentina are easily reached over dirt roads. The Chilean quasi-governmental organization CONAF has a compound on the outskirts of SPdA.

After a short meeting at CONAF headquarters in Antofagasta on 14 January 2009, an historic agreement was reached between CONAF, Fundación Biodiversitas (a Chilean nonprofit NGO), and Small Cat Conservation Alliance (SCCA) to establish a permanent Andean cat conservation and monitoring station on the CONAF compound at SPdA.



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on these pages.

How will SCCA keep the cost of operating the station under control? SCCA's overhead presently consists of a cell phone and website maintenance. I personally accept no salary. WCN partner Steve Gold is already assembling the solar photovoltaic system and hot water panels that are necessary to operate our station as well as the local CONAF station. We expect to ship this freight from San Francisco to Antofagasta in late 2009. This will take care of all our power requirements. SPdA is famous for its clear skies so I fully expect the station will in fact be self-sufficient. A 4WD truck is required before we can venture into the Andes. The truck is a fixed up-front cost with recurring insurance and operational costs. There will be no paid employ-



Roberto entering the north face of the future Andean cat conservation and monitoring station. The building is 26 feet wide by 73 feet long.

CONAF compound, San Pedro de Atacama

My purpose of visiting San Pedro de Atacama was not to enjoy the geysers and hot springs. Indeed, I never saw them. My objective was to visit the CONAF compound, meet the staff, and inspect the facilities, and measure one particular building. This is the building that CONAF has suggested we use to create the station. Obviously the building has not been used for quite some time and requires full renovation. However, this has been made available by CONAF to Fundación Biodiversitas and SCCA at no up-front cost in good faith that it will be transformed into a center of conservation activity.

Rather than describe what I saw, it is far better to show you what I saw in pictures



West facing wall of the building. Many of the windows are broken.



Rear of adjacent CONAF headquarters as seen from our building. The large cylinder is exhibit space.



The interior of the building with exposed roof trusses. The roof is open on the sides and not insulated. There is no water to the building.

ees at our station. The compound is used on a daily basis and already has a local guard. My plan is to open the station to students, colleagues, and researchers who will pay for the use of the station rooms (hotel rooms are expensive and often full). We will encourage visiting scientists to hire local people as technicians for their projects. In this way, science programs will benefit local communities.

I fully expect all of you to visit. When we really get going, it will be possible to visit local communities who will be helping us with camera trapping and other efforts, and with luck and some radio-collars, we should be able to observe one of the rarest cats on earth, an Andean cat, in its native habitat.

What funding is required to get the sta-

tion up and running? The table below is a preliminary estimate.

Fundación Biodiversitas and SCCA are asking a local hotel, Explora, for help in designing the interior of the station. We believe the concrete slab might not support the weight of the adobe bricks. Water must be run from the CONAF headquarters to our building. Also, this is a geologically active area that causes the walls and sills to be subjected to unusual stresses. Reinforced rebar and cement are required. Explora is a 5-star hotel offering rooms with a three-night minimum stay. Tours to geysers, hot springs, and incredibly scenic thermal pools are available. If you are interested, please visit

http://www.explora.com/atacama_theplace.php

Item	Cost (US\$)
4WD Truck (used)	12,000
Building renovation incl labor & material transport	55,000
Furnishing from Antofagasta	7,000
Shipping solar equipment from CA to Chile	8,000
Total	82,000
SCCA provided funds	21,000
Total needed	61,000

Final Note

Some might suggest that I have abandoned my efforts to raise the profile of other small wild cats such as the bay cat, flat-headed cat, Javan fishing cat, and Chinese mountain cat, and those other small cats near and dear to my heart and the hearts of my colleagues (and you) elsewhere. SCCA's and my personal goals remain the same: To raise the profile of the world's most threatened small cats and to create a group of monitoring stations from which to reach local communities and initiate conservation efforts. What has always been missing is where. For the Andean cat and Pampas cat we know where. Part of my plan is to invite my colleagues from around the world to the Andean cat conservation and monitoring station. This will encourage them to become involved in the same way. •



Eventually we must create a second such station, perhaps in Parinacota, Chile on the Peru-Bolivia border, near top of map. Again access is by paved road from Arica, Chile, and CONAF has two stations in the area already.

Book Review: **Life in the Valley of Death:** **The Fight to Save Tigers in a Land of Guns, Gold and Greed** **By Alan Rabinowitz, a Shearwater Book, Island Press 2008**

*Reviewed by Patrick Callahan,
Chair, FCF Conservation Committee*

In order to focus the conservation efforts of FCF and the committee I was elected to lead, I hit upon the idea of using book reviews. Now, I am not Oprah, but we can trade books with fellow members, or buy new or used books over the internet, meaning easy access for all. Then too, animal lovers usually have a home library for recreation and information anyway.

Doing conservation “in-situ” is hard, complex work! Projects where the stars align and the ducks line up, are to be treasured! That is not the norm! The books I plan to review will show the hard side of the work. And we all need to know some general truths of conservation and some of the controversies.

Rabinowitz’s book “Life in the Valley of Death” is both a personal, even intimate, illustrative work of what I want FCF to understand about conservation. It can be heart-breaking, shocking, and graphic. Conservation, after all, is in the eye of the beholder.

So we begin on the Ledo Road. If you know any World War II history in Asia, you have probably heard of the Ledo Road.

It was built as a supply road by the Allies from India, through Northern Myanmar (Burma) to China. The Ledo Road sort of still exists in this undeveloped region. And “there be tigers” and other creatures still hunted and revered by the various indigenous folks. This book looks at the Myanmar part of the area, especially the well-forested Hukawng Valley.

A quick list of some animals there include: gaur—the tallest wild bovine, wild boar, sambar (deer), barking and leaf deer, elephants, Asian black bear, and some primates, especially gibbons. Along with the tigers we can add

leopards and Asian wild dogs.

Do you need to look some of these up to visualize them? You are not alone!

There are human residents as well, trying to survive in the old ways or taking up new and sometimes destructive habits. They may mine the forest for traditional Chinese medicines made of animal parts or for opium or gold. Factor in some rather untamed ethnic groups, an overbearing military, and things can get rough! Oh and then there is the xenophobic national government that telegraphs “no help is needed” to the outside world. Not a promising mix.

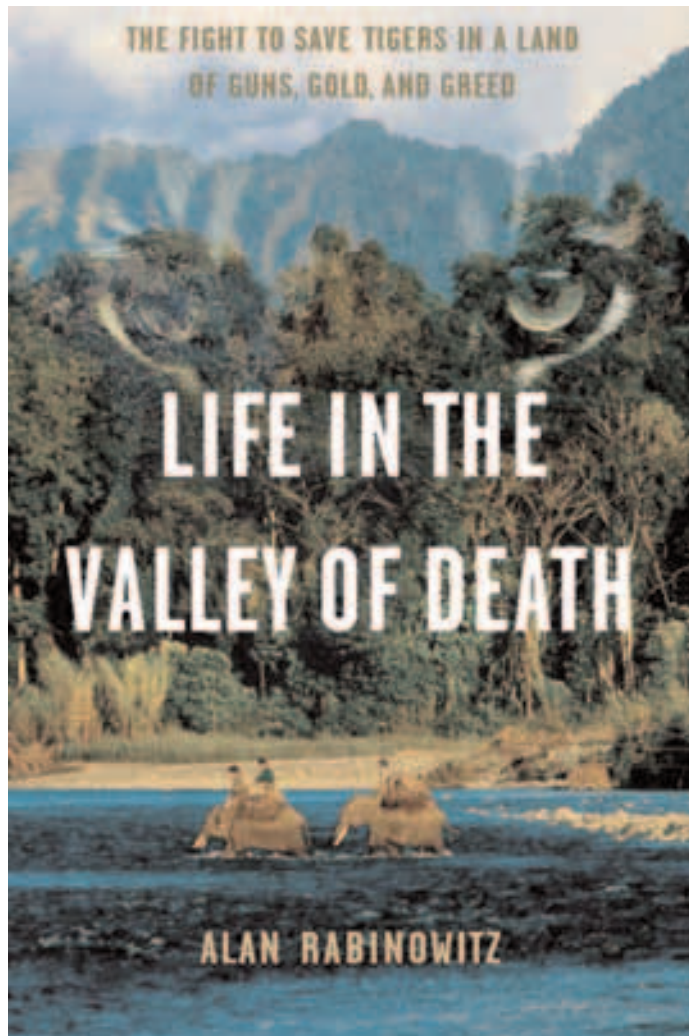
As you read the book though, you will

see how Rabinowitz had to navigate and placate, cajole and network, and slog through terrain both natural and political. But finally, with great patience, he gets to the real goal: that all conservation is a local concern. Meaning that selling the idea of a preserve to the people directly affected by its existence, is the key to the whole thing. If they do not buy-in, then the generals and bureaucrats and despoilers can run amok!

We know in our own countries that names like “national park” and “wilderness area” can be just hollow, meaningless titles. To people living a very minimal existence, a national park is a shopping mart, full of valuable or edible goods. Or if they practice Chinese folk medicine, it is their pharmacy. The gifts of the forest may be used or consumed locally or more sinisterly, transported across the porous borders with China and India.

But if the locals buy in, and are part of the process, then real preservation and conservation can occur. Sustained use of timber and rattan plus moderate hunting and fishing can be reasoned out and self regulated. It cannot be imposed by well-fed foreigners or remote big-city politicians. This is what the hard work is about and Alan tells in a truthful, harsh, but polite way. You will read how he and his colleagues in Myanmar and some (maybe to us) unsavory characters worked their way through the obstacles to establish something potentially very special in the Valley of Death. It might even work!

This is the kind of book that can inspire young people anywhere to consider field biology and land use as a career. It shows that when good people get together, whatever they bring to the table, they can be a real force for saving the wild or growing FCF! •



Ocelot Recovery Report

The Feline Conservation Federation is a member on the US Fish and Wildlife Ocelot Recovery Team. In 2006 the FCF awarded a \$1,800 grant to perform a species survey on property in Mexico in preparation for possible future translocations of Mexican ocelots. To help the US ocelot population in Texas, native vegetation is being restored. Brady McGee, of the US Fish & Wildlife Service shares news of these efforts, and their first ever camera trap photo of an ocelot and kitten taken at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge.

Brady McGee, Ph.D.,
Regional Recovery Biologist,
USFWS Region 2

Because over 95% of the original lower Rio Grande delta habitat in south Texas has been cleared or altered, the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge (LRGV) has been restoring native vegetation by planting 400-700 acres of farmland back to native brush every year. Reconnecting fragmented pieces of habitat is one of the primary goals of LRGV.

During the fall of 2009, experimental plantings on a portion of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge will offer the refuge an opportunity to eventually determine whether planting density of yesterday (300 plants per acre) is sufficient.

In the late winter/early spring of 2007, LRGV conducted an experimental planting on the Los Velas (Starr County) site with 300, 600, and 1200 plants per acre. Experimental plantings will offer insight into whether the invasive grasses are more or less successful in the varying densities or



whether planting at the higher density more closely resembles ocelot brush habitat needs. The LRGV is planting a similar research field at Garza-Cavazos (Cameron

County) this year at 600, 1200, and 2400 plants per acre, in the more mesic end of Lower Rio Grande Valley to evaluate those same issues.

The 2009 reforestation efforts will be conducted on key river corridor tracts and on Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, where there are ocelots and where the refuges can sooner, rather than later, ascertain whether ocelot will use reforested sites. Obtaining this information may still be 20 years away, but by monitoring radio-collared ocelots, at least the Refuges will be able to eventually determine whether and which plant density ocelots will traverse through and hopefully use for all or a portion of their needs.

The trip camera photo is of a female ocelot and her kitten taken in December 2008 on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. This female is Esperanza. Adonis is Esperanza's mate, and so, would probably be this kitten's father. This is the first time that a photograph of a female ocelot and her offspring has been taken together. This is also the youngest ocelot kitten documented on the refuge since the last ocelot den was found in 1997. •

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Good Things Come in Pairs

By Ann Hedderick

Good things do come in pairs such as Santasia and Seminole, two tigers that came to us from Ohio in 2007. They were being housed in a populated area, near a school, no perimeter fence, and the female owner was widowed and failing to provide proper care. Local FCF members got involved, and the entire FCF raised the funds to pay for the transportation costs to move these deserving tigers to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center (EFRC) in Center Point, Indiana. This rehoming was the event that birthed what is now called the FCF Wildcat Safety Net Fund. The EFRC made the trip to Ohio to rescue these beautiful 9-year-old tigers.

I'm a regular volunteer at EFRC, as well as an FCF member. From the first time I saw this pair, they were very friendly tigers. Even though they had to remain in a smaller cage than we would like for them, they did remain very friendly tigers, always chuffing. In December of 2008 EFRC was able to complete a renovation and they were moved into a nice big area. They now have much more room to run and a larger climbing tower than they previously had.

Seminole was the first to be moved into the new cage. He went up on top of the new enclosure, got in his water tank and then greeted his new neighbors. There are



eight tigers in the next enclosure. With Seminole on one side and the eight on the other side of the fence, they would go from the front to the back of the cage and then back up again all the while chuffing a welcome! Jackie, one of the eight, was the only one to show a bit of aggression, though this mild aggression was against the other seven

of her group. She seemed to be smitten by Seminole, so she was trying to keep the other tigers further away from him than she was. Santasia was the next to come in and was also greeted warmly.

On tours now you can always count on a lot of chuffs from both Santasia and Seminole! They are very sweet tigers. •





Boston - The Tale of the Tiger live educational show has been presented for 26 consecutive years.



Myrtle Beach
T.I.G.E.R.S. Preserve
and Preservation Station,
providing conservation funding
through wildlife education.



(Top) **Miami**
Wild Encounters show at Jungle Island.
(Bottom) **Brazil** - Working in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution to educate rural Brazilian villagers about the importance of jaguar conservation.



In 1982, the Rare Species Fund was established by Doc Antle to provide funding to critical on-the-ground international wildlife conservation programs, thereby complementing the educational messages and field research of T.I.G.E.R.S. The RSF has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for conservation efforts. It is funded largely through a percentage of revenues taken in by



FCF RARE S



Chile

Establishment of the Andean cat conservation and monitoring station.



Uganda

Elephant research and conservation through the International Elephant Foundation.



Kenya
Orphan Elephant
Rehabilitation Project



T.I.G.E.R.S., the generosity of donations from exhibit guests, and the general public. FCF has recently partnered with T.I.G.E.R.S. to co-manage and distribute support from the Rare Species Fund. This gives FCF the opportunity to directly take part in and contribute to much needed wildlife conservation efforts around the globe.

RARE SPECIES FUND



▲ **Thailand** Helping to provide research and anti-poaching equipment for the Khao Yai National Park.



◀ **Thailand** - Seven tigers were transported to the Samutprakarn wildlife park to help support tiger conservation education efforts.



◀ **Borneo** Reforestation project to help stabilize prime orangutan rainforest habitats.

◀ **Zimbabwe** - Radio tracking leopards and cheetahs in the Matabeleland world wildlife heritage site.

South Africa - Raptor Research Project (RRP) Helping to maintain African eagle populations.



▶ **South Africa** Supporting captive cheetah breeding projects at both De Wildt and the Savannah Cheetah Foundation.



FCF Goes to Washington

By Robert Johnson,
FCF Director of Legislation

Regardless of your political viewpoint, January 20, 2009 was a historic day for the United States of America. I stood on the National Mall in 12 degree weather with two million other Americans, excited to witness and be part of history in the making. The wind was bitterly cold and the crowd was so dense that you had no choice but to move with the flow. Despite the inclement conditions and difficulty moving, I walked in pure astonishment at the realization that every person I saw was kind and courteous, in spite of the crowd, and that every face I saw was adorned with a permanent smile. Never before have I wit-

nessed so many happy people in a single place. As the crowd grew steadily larger and the host of distinguished speakers took the podium, the air grew electric with excitement. "Welcome to the 44th Presidential Inauguration."

Watching firsthand as Barack Obama became the nation's newest president was somewhat like waking up and realizing you're in a movie. People had piled into cars, trains, planes, and buses and had traveled from all corners of the U.S. to unite at this single time and place. The massive crowd stretched from the Capitol building more than 2.1 miles down the grass-covered National Mall, past the Smithsonian Institution and Washington Monument, past the famous reflecting pool and view of the

White House grounds, all the way to the Lincoln Memorial sitting atop its gently sloping hill. In order to accommodate the viewing desires of the masses, JumboTron televisions had been strategically positioned so the ceremony could be viewed from almost any point in the park. As president Barack Obama began to speak, a sound delay was created from having speakers spaced out along a two-mile long path. The pursuant echoing effect instantly brought to mind grainy black and white films of Martin Luther King's historic speeches, given at the same location I was standing decades earlier. I knew I was witnessing something truly momentous. When a particularly inspirational sentiment was uttered, the crowd erupted into a cheer so loud and with such deep omni-directional





Doc Antle with actor Robert Duvall and ICCF president, David Baron, having a “conservation conversation.”

reverberations that I watched and listened in pure awe. You expect such sounds to be produced in epic Hollywood films, but experiencing it in person, the sound had an overwhelming effect that no THX speakers could ever duplicate.

The common thread holding everyone together that cold January day in Washington D.C. was the desire for change. Whether people voted for Barack Obama or John McCain, the opinions seemed to be the same, “Obama is the president now, let’s see if he can do something positive.” This sentiment seems to be shared by most Americans and the necessity for change means that politicians and lawmakers are willing to look at alternative ways of doing things. I was in Washington D.C. with Doc Antle and the T.I.G.E.R.S. staff representing the Rare Species Fund to do exactly that. We were there to discuss current wildlife issues in the U.S. and to provide lawmakers with alternative insights and methods for management.

Doc Antle has had the personal foresight and ambition to address and pursue the legal issues, which very few private animals owners have ever done, and he has been doing so on a federal level. Employing the expertise and political experience of Vitello Consulting, a federal affairs consulting firm, we have been able to make significant connections with key politicians on

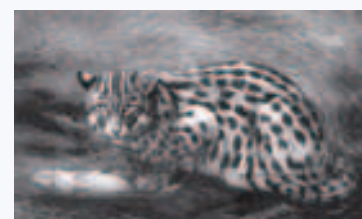
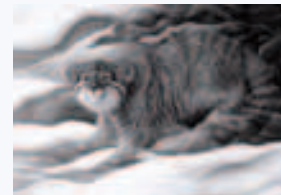
Capitol Hill. By being part of a proactive legislative strategy and being able to work directly with this politically well-connected organization, my personal decision to

accept the director of legislation position as a result of the recent FCF election was almost automatic. *This* is where I could provide the FCF with the most help.

The Rare Species Fund (RSF) is a conservation fund co-managed and distributed through the FCF. For further information about RSF, check out the centerfold of this journal. The RSF has just recently partnered with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) as a participant in global environmental and wildlife conservation. The ICCF is an organization that brings together political leaders, foreign heads of state, captains of industry, and environmental organizations from around the globe. In celebration of the inauguration of our 44th president, the Rare Species Fund attended ICCF’s Inaugural Gala, which was reported “to be one of the largest gatherings of conservationists.” The gala celebrated the “achievements by the international, corporate, non-governmental organizations, and government communities that promote strong U.S. leadership in the sound management of the world’s natural resources.” The elite guest list included not only politi-

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cal figures but welcomed celebrities like Bo Derek, Robert Duvall, Cheryl Hines, Dennis Hopper, Ashley Judd, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Edward Norton, Rick Schroder, and Joe Theismann, just to name a few. ICCF president David Baron was quoted as saying “Not only are we at the International Conservation Caucus Foundation celebrating the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States, but we are also uniting so many different people, organizations, and ideologies in focusing on solving the climate crisis that continues to plague our planet. As part of ICCF’s mission, we are convinced that it is in America’s national interest to expand its leadership in the world to promote sound, long-term policies of sustainable land, water, and biodiversity management.” The evening was punctuated by an inspirational speech by actor and conservationist Edward Norton.

The day following the presidential inauguration, we traveled just outside of Washington D.C. for an opportunity to share some of our animal ambassadors with congressmen, senators, and the politically elite



of the D.C. crowd. Hosted by actor Robert Duval and his wife Luciana at their Virginia farm, the event offered us a much less formal setting in which we could really introduce the Rare Species Fund and our goals to many influential members of government and other heads of worldwide con-

servation organizations. The Rare Species Fund was the guest of honor at the event and Doc Antle delivered a persuasive speech to the party about the importance of presenting live wildlife ambassadors to create a connection with, and stress the importance of, conservation. A connection and an understanding about this point certainly seemed to form as congressmen, senators, and even part of the recent presidential cabinet got up close and hands-on with tiger cubs, orangutans, and gibbons from T.I.G.E.R.S. Overall, the day’s event seemed to be a very successful step in getting the message of captive wildlife’s role in conservation heard and seen first hand by some of the influential individuals who will ultimately have a direct effect on policy.

The point of meeting with politicians is not only to express our viewpoint, but also to understand the viewpoint and procedures of the politicians themselves. This insight into the lawmaking world allows us to develop a more appropriate strategy for creating positive change. During our conversations with various parties during the inauguration events in Washington D.C., some key legislative points came up that I think everyone, as members of FCF, should consider and keep in mind.

First, we seem to have a collective misconception that owning exotic animals is a “right.” Very much like driving a car, owning an exotic animal is a privilege that may be taken away if not done correctly. The rules concerning where and how to drive vary to some degree from state to state, so too, do

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the laws governing exotic animals. If you are planning on talking to your state or local legislators about current bills and potential regulation changes, it is important to understand that they are much more likely to respond to respectful, well informed, logical responses than they are the emotional demands for ownership of exotic animals as “personal rights” and “personal property.” Remember, owning exotic animals is a privilege, it is *not* protected under the U.S. Constitution.

The second thing that seems to be inevitable is that there is *going* to be a reformation as to the regulation of wildlife in this country. The biggest question is “who is going to do it?” This query brings into sharp focus the FCF’s accreditation committee and our goal for self-regulation. This is an excellent plan and the expansion and further development of this program should be high on our list of priorities. So too is our education division and husbandry courses. Most of you have received your FCF membership cards in the last edition of this journal. Reading some of the com-

ments posted in the Yahoo groups, I see that there is some debate about validating an individual’s handler status. While this should certainly be a concern, everyone should keep in mind that we are in a period of transition within the FCF and some of these programs are still in their infancy. It will take time to refine and develop them to run at their most efficient and effective levels. The important part is that these programs are in place. We have taken the first steps to inspect, educate, examine and keep records of our members. The bottom line is, regulation is going to happen one way or another. It is in our best interests to become our own self-regulating body, before someone else steps in and does it for us. We do not want the state and federal government to feel they need to intervene and start creating policy of what may or may not be done, because we have failed to do so ourselves.

The FCF is working very hard to legitimize itself in the world’s eye and to become a respected national and international organization. If everything in the

FCF is not what you think it should be, I urge you to express your opinions in a positive manner and to personally take an active part in helping to develop our various programs. Do not expect things to change overnight. It is only through our collective hard work that we will be able to show the world that the FCF is a responsible, conservation-minded and effective organization. This will go a long way in protecting our “privilege” to responsibly maintain the captive felines, which so many of our lives revolve around. •

You can watch ICCF president David Baron delivering his speech at the gala:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOCr-PQvHGeQ>

This address shows a video of ICCF work with National Geographic:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNgdo_MGIFY

A video of Doc speaking to the ICCF can be found at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJiGHe2y_pY



T.I.G.E.R.S. staff and animals with their hosts Robert and Luciana Duvall.

Panther Ridge Hosts Italian Vogue Fashion Shoot

This past February, Panther Ridge Conservation Center in Wellington, Florida was chosen as the setting for an Italian Vogue fashion shoot. Judy Berens, the center's founder says an army of beauticians joined internationally known fashion photographer Steven Klein, as he spent the day shooting pictures of Amber Valetta modeling the latest in French Haute Couture amidst the

exotic felines of Panther Ridge. Everyone's creative juices started flowing and Steven dreamed up crazy sets with Judy's assistance.

Judy explains that the cats and their enclosures were featured heavily in this fashion spread; however, Amber and the cats were never actually in the same place at the same time. Instead, photos were

taken of cats in the enclosures and then Judy would clear the enclosure of the cats and Amber would be posed to appear to be interacting with the felines.

In one shot Amber is wearing an \$80,000 gown and is tethered by tow chains to the empty cage that is home to Duma serval and Phoebe caracal. Judy says the gown got snagged on the cage in the process. Oh well, what's a little cost overrun in the fashion shoot for the rich?

As expected, everyone loved the cheetah and several shots were created using these spotted felines. Again the cats were photographed in their expansive habitats and then Judy would call them into their holding cages so that Amber could be posed where they once were. One photo was created to make it appear that Amber, wearing only a garter belt and a bolero (short jacket with puffy sleeves) was bent over next to a drooling cheetah observing her butt in the air.

In another fanciful creation, Judy describes Amber as being dressed in the most angelic manner as she opens a travel cage door, appearing to release a cheetah. Judy explains that first she prepared the scene by clearing the cheetah from their habitat, and then the crate was rolled into place. Judy baited the crate with interesting scents and the cheetah were allowed into their habitats, where they did as expected, exploring this novel object, sniffing, and eventually walking through the open door into the travel cage and then back out again. Then it was just a matter of Judy calling the cheetah back to their night cage. Amber then posed beside the travel cage holding the door open. Two separate photos, taken from the same angle are superimposed upon each other and it appears Amber is releasing the cheetah into the yard.

The fashion spread should be in Italian Vogue by the time Panther Ridge is hosting the next FCF Husbandry Course scheduled on April 25, 2009 at the Sherbrooke Development Clubhouse in Lake Worth. Following the class, on Sunday April 26 students are invited to tour Panther Ridge Conservation Center and its cats. Judy should have a copy of the magazine to share with us. •



Mike Friese

**Panther Ridge Conservation Center
is hosting the next
FCF Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry Course**

When: Saturday, April 25, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Where: Sherbrooke Development Clubhouse
6661 East Calumet Circle
Lake Worth, FL**

**Price: \$95.00 FCF members
\$130.00 non-members**

**Mail registration form & check to:
Panther Ridge Conservation Center,
14755 Palm Beach Point Blvd,
Wellington, Florida 33414**

For more course info e-mail:
education@felineconservation.org



This 8-hour course focuses on responsible captive husbandry. Featured topics include: natural history of the feline species, nutrition, health care basics, handling equipment, facility design, behavior conditioning, contingency planning and regulatory agencies. This is an instructor-led, multi-media presentation, complete with student textbook, workshops, final exam and decorative certificate of successful completion.

With Florida F & W regulations under revision, and additional requirements being considered for felines such as puma, there has never been a better time to take the Basic Exotic/Wild Feline Husbandry Course, and now there is a better reason too. The course been completely updated, making this educational opportunity more valuable than ever.

**Sunday April 26, students are
invited to tour Panther Ridge
Conservation Center.**

This Florida Class I licensed facility houses clouded leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, panther, puma, serval and caracal. Students learn about the center's enrichments and husbandry practices. Tour begins at 10:00 am. \$15.00 tour fee.

Course host is Judy Berens, of Panther Ridge Conservation Center, e-mail questions to: pantheridge@aol.com
call: 561-795-8914

Nearby lodging:
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Hampton Inn, 561-472-5980
both on Lake Worth Road,
right by the Turnpike
Airport: West Palm Beach,
just 25 minutes away

The nutrition section covers new materials on calcium and vitamins and diet designs. Health care has been updated. There are dozens of new photos of cages, fencing, materials and enrichments in the facility section. There are better feline species photos and better range maps for natural history. The student textbook is now 149 pages chock full of useful information to take home for future reference.

Registration form - please cut out or photocopy and mail to:
14755 Palm Beach Point Blvd, Wellington, Florida 33414

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City _____

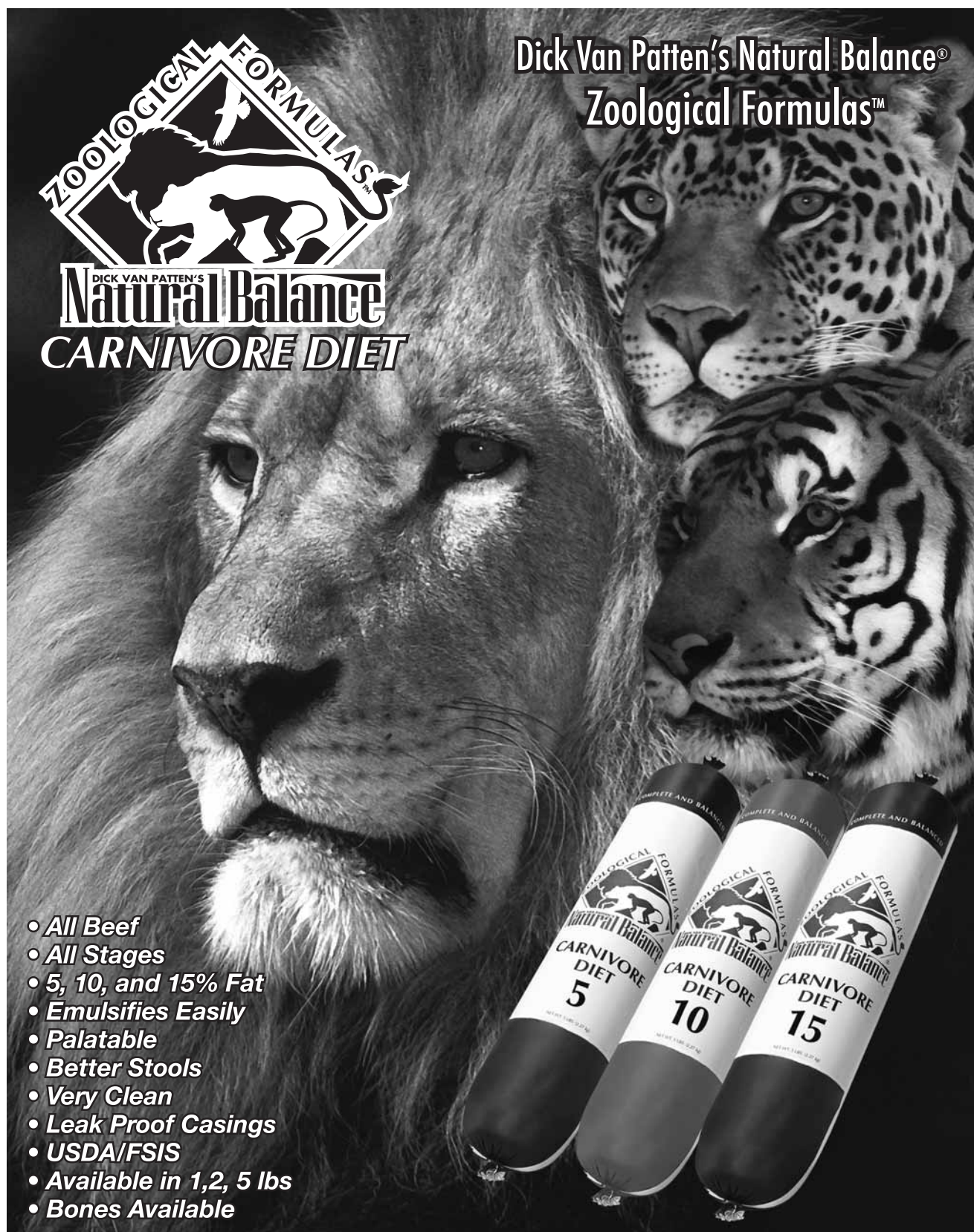
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Phone : _____

E-Mail _____

Attending the Sunday tour of Panther Ridge () yes () no

Total enclosed _____



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AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

An investigation into the effectiveness of olfactory enrichment, using essential oils, for several species of captive feline

Gail Quinn, BSc (Hons)
Animal Science (First) 2008

Abstract

Captive and natural environments vary greatly. An animal's normal "wild" behaviors might be suppressed in a confined environment, consequentially affecting their psychology. Animals are able to handle captive environments when they have the ability to display more behaviors from their normal behavioral repertoire. Reduced welfare results from the lack of environmental challenge that is evident in many zoological institutions and this is of particular significance to those animals, such as felines, with large home ranges. Environmental enrichment has led to an improved quality of life for captive animals and an increase in behaviors that would be seen in the wild. Felines are important in maintaining species diversity in their natural habitats; their captive welfare is of concern so that suitable animals can be released into these habitats in order to sustain wild populations.

The effectiveness of essential oils on the performance of natural behaviors in felines is not widely known, and their use as a form of olfactory enrichment has not previously been considered. Furthermore, scientists have identified the need for more studies into the use of preference tests in order to give animals some control over their environment. This investigation focused on a range of felines in two separate locations, using preference tests to determine the ideal essential oil scent of each feline. The enrichment was most effective in leopards, with a significant difference in behavior seen following enrichment. This was evident in an increase in species typical behaviors and a reduction in abnormal behavior such as pacing. While differences were observed in cheetah, lion and tiger behaviors, these were not significant. Incorporation of the appropriate essential oil into enrichment plans for leopard species could reduce stereotypic behaviors and increase the performance of natural behaviors, akin to those seen in wild situations. The findings of this study on captive wild felines suggest certain oils may be advantageous

as a method of enrichment for some species. Extended work into this area could ultimately improve the welfare of felines in captivity.

Study

Olfactory enrichment employing essential oils, sometimes referred to as animal aromatics, is a new area of study. Studies conducted on the effects of sensory enrichment on captive animals have tended to focus on stimulation through feeding devices (Baker et al 1997). More specifically, the effects of olfactory enrichment on the levels of natural behaviors performed by large cats are largely unknown (Ingraham 2006).

By finding out the scent preference of the felines studied, they are given some control over their environment. The idea of offering control to captive animals is not new and has been a popular element of enrichment plans for some time. Scientists have used preference tests since the 1970s to determine animal welfare (Fraser and Matthews 1997). However, there is scope for more thorough investigation of animal preferences (Sambrook and Buchanan-Smith 1997 cited Swaisgood 2007).

There is evidence of only two previous studies using a range of essential oils with captive wild felines. Caroline Ingraham, an expert in the field of animal aromatics, used aromatics to treat a behavioral issue in a captive tiger in 2005. The tiger became part of the Siberian tiger breeding program, which was previously not a viable option (Ingraham 2006). Essential oils were used to reduce stress levels in a family of Amur leopards (*Panthera pardus*) at Cricket St. Thomas Wildlife Park in a study over the winter of 2006-2007. Exposure to the oils had a positive effect on the felines by reducing pacing and other stress-related behaviors; time spent performing normal behaviors increased (Quinn 2007).

Olfaction is most likely the oldest means of communication and has minimum energy requirements (Doty 1986 cited Zenner et al 2003). Young (2003) reports that olfactory signals are widely used by many species of animal and possibly the entire animal kingdom relies upon it. In the wild, an ani-

mal will seek out plants to counteract an ailment, whether physiological or psychological. Felines, in particular, rub themselves on a plant to release its scent, which they then inhale for the desired effect, such as to alleviate stress (Ingraham 2006).

Animals encounter an abundance of smells in the wild as they roam across various habitats; in captivity they are far more restricted. Using olfactory stimuli is a naturalistic way of providing enrichment and its use can promote species-typical behaviors in felines (Baker et al 1997). Furthermore, Kitchener (1991 cited Mellen and Shepherson 1997) found inquisitive behavior in felines can be achieved with the use of novel stimuli such as scents.

The aim of the study was to establish whether olfactory enrichment, using essential oils, is an effective enrichment device for captive felines. The intention was to determine whether olfactory stimulation meets some of the criteria expected of environmental enrichment, namely increasing species-typical behaviors, decreasing abnormal behaviors, and increasing behavioral diversity, as suggested by Markowitz (1975 cited McCormick 2003).

The oils are from plants originating in the Eastern world, except for angelica root, which is from Northern Europe, a region far removed from any of the felines' natural habitats. The home ranges of three of the four feline species under investigation are similar to that of the origins of the remaining four oils. Animals should be offered a selection of oils to allow them to choose their own scent and not have any forced upon them. The oils were positioned so that the felines had the freedom to move away if desired; in addition, they were placed outside where the animals were most relaxed, since this is the most appropriate time to offer essential oils (Ingraham 2006).

Plywood boards were placed 2 feet apart in each of the feline enclosures, and left for one week as a control to allow the cats to acclimatize to the presence of the novel items. Five boards, labeled A-E, were placed out of reach of the cats so that any aromas from the label markers did not influence the results. Five essential oils

were used to treat the wooden boards. Any interest in the oils would now be unbiased due to the control. Two mL of oil was added to the boards, one oil per board. These were labeled A – Angelica root, B – Pink Lotus, C – Rose Otto, D – Sandalwood, and E – Valerian.

Results

Unlike the other feline species, the cheetah was not fully committed to investigating the oils. He did, however, display behaviors that had not previously been seen, including calling out in short, high-pitched chirps, and rolling around in the grass nearby. With no prior knowledge of essential oil preference in cheetahs, it would have been inappropriate to select one for him. Observations of his behavior ceased at this point, and he was not included in the final part of the study.

The lions showed a preference for valerian, particularly the female, who stopped pacing in order to investigate the new aromas. The leopards were highly interested in the scents placed in their enclosure, paying particular attention to rose otto, which caused them to roll around the floor and display play behaviors with each other. The tigers did not show an interest in the initial preference test, and therefore did not select a “favorite” oil. Table 2 illustrates the oils used to enrich each enclosure.

Table 2. The essential oil selected by each species of feline, observed by Quinn (2007)

Species	Scent
Asiatic lion	Valerian
Persian leopard	Rose Otto
Sumatran tiger	Sandalwood†

† Since the tigers did not express one particular interest, sandalwood was selected to apply to their enclosure, based on evidence from the Siberian tiger study, where sandalwood was the preferred scent (Ingraham 2006).

There was a significant difference in the percentage of time the leopards spent performing different behaviors (GLM: $F = 9.40$; $df = 19,79$; $P = 0.00$). Furthermore, there was a significant difference in the mean percentage of time they spent performing the behaviors prior to and follow-

ing enrichment (GLM: $F = 4.25$; $df = 19,79$; $P = 0.00$). Pacing decreased by 76% with enrichment, and sniffing increased significantly.

Discussion

Enrichment may only provide a short-term solution in reducing stereotypic or abnormal behaviors; the novelty factor wears off because the enrichment device may not have long-lasting effects on behavior outside of the operational timescales (Forthman et al 1992 cited Vickery and Mason 2003). The effectiveness of the essential oils may have been dependent on the novelty factor, so they could be applied regularly to provide a continued source of stimulation to the felines.

Nevertheless, there was a trend in the results with an increase in normal behaviors observed in all felines. The enrichment was proven to be effective for short-term use, which provides a foundation for improving the welfare of felines in captivity. Furthermore, enrichment items that resemble an animal’s natural environment, such as the oils selected, are considered the most beneficial (van Hooff 1967 cited Mellen and Shepherson 1997).

Introducing regionally-relevant plants to enclosures might be a practical solution. While zoos are improving their enclosures continuously, they tend to forget to include plant life, which is linked to animal ecology. They not only make enclosures appear more natural, but paint a bigger picture for the education of visitors, demonstrating that living things are dependent on one another, for example for food and seed dispersal (Robinson 1996). Employing plants native to the felines’ home regions could provide a natural setting combined with the organic forms of essential oil scents usually derived from those plants.

Humans should not expect a captive animal to adapt to conditions they dictate; rather, environmental conditions should be adapted to suit the relevant animal. Used appropriately, enrichment can be beneficial to the physical health of captive animals. It can reduce the frequency of abnormal behaviors and encourage species-typical behaviors (Swaigood and Shepherson 2005), lessen fear experienced as a result of captivity, reduce blood pressure and encourage activity and investigation, thus

leading to improved welfare (Mench 1998).

The findings of this study on captive wild felines suggest certain oils may be advantageous as a method of enrichment for some species, although more long-term work with a greater number of animals is required before firm conclusions can be drawn.

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Continued on next page

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<http://www.biaza.org.uk/resources/library/images/ARSP5.pdf> [Accessed 22 October 2007]. •

Charlie Sammut of Vision Quest Ranch

By Dan Stockdale

Charlie Sammut and the staff of Vision Quest Ranch will be our hosts for the 2009 FCF convention in Monterey-Salinas, California. Make your plans now to attend this once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit one of the most amazing facilities on the west coast.

Charlie Sammut was born in 1961 in Dearborn, Michigan. He lived in Michigan until he was 4 years old at which time his family moved to Redwood City, California.

In 1972 his parent bought a small hotel and moved to Salinas, California and built the Laurel Inn Motel and restaurant which opened a year later. In 1978 he graduated from Palma High School in Salinas, California. Although he always had a need to have and be around animals, his dad didn't always share this enthusiasm. It was his mom who caved into it occasionally. It was she who must have donated the anthropomorphic gene which often plagues him when dealing with his animals and the film industry in general. His love for animals was evident and when he moved out on his own, he began an extensive and varied menagerie of pets. All were of a legal pet store nature, but exotic and unusual nonetheless. His pets included boas,



pythons, sharks, parrots, alligators, as well as dogs, cats, rats, and horses.

In 1979 Charlie enrolled at Hartnell College, Salinas where he attended the Animal Health Technology Program with the intent of pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. During this time he also worked full time at the Toro Park Veterinary Clinic.

In the early 1980s the family's 54-unit Laurel Inn grew to 146 rooms with his sister Terry there to run it. For two European immigrants from the Mediterranean island of Malta, Charlie's parents are the two most successful people he has ever known.

In the mid-1980s Charlie bought Oxtan Kennels, a dog and cat boarding facility, as both an investment and a hobby. His intentions were for to run the kennel while he

remained in police work. It was toward the end of this period that he adopted “Sam,” an elderly cougar I found being held illegally in a garage in Seaside. The owners didn’t want the animal any longer and Charlie was able to obtain permits to adopt him. This was when a “hobby” started getting way out of hand.

The kennel business increased to a point that made going to work for someone else every day unbearable. He resigned as a police officer to run the kennel and start an educational program called “Wild Things” with his exotic pets.

Charlie’s infatuation with Sam (the cougar) led to an attempt to acquire an even larger cat. He obtained a tiger through an animal broker he had met along the way but when the cub arrived, it was a lion. Opting to keep the lion, the tiger arrived six months later.

As lion led to tiger, tiger led to bears, bears to monkeys, and monkeys to elephants. The lion, Josef, became his best friend, his star, and the single most important influence on his life that would change its course forever. Impressed by his beauty and special temperament, a trainer in the film industry asked if I would allow Josef to participate in a Dryfus Fund commercial to be filmed at the Grand Canyon, Arizona. Charlie was getting paid to play with his best friend in a warm sunny place. Josef was having a great time too. All the excitement coupled with the financial reward was enough to lure anyone into the industry. It was then that “Wild Things” became



“Wild Things Animal Rentals Inc.”

Today that hobby has evolved into one of the most impressive private facilities on the west coast. In 1994, Charlie left his 5-acre rented property in North Salinas to move to the largest investment he had ever made, the beautiful 51 acre Vision Quest Ranch located in the sun belt between Monterey and Salinas. The new Oxtan Kennels operates better than ever and a complete equestrian center has been added to further enhance his life.

Wild Things A.R. Inc. now houses 100+ exotic animals ranging from spiders to African elephants. In addition, they still maintain a full-time educational program which reaches thousands of children and adults annually. The new bed and breakfast helps support the animals and allows Charlie and his staff to share them with many more animal enthusiasts. Charlie has dedicated the remainder of his land to their new nonprofit organization, EARS, to help benefit elephants. •



Blast from the Past. . . . *And Then There Were Seven*

Long Island Ocelot Club

Jan/Feb 1970—Volume 14, Issue 1

By Brenda Herd

Piada was obtained at the age of 4 months—a spitting bundle of claws and teeth, identified as jaguarundi. Upon reaching home, she immediately retired under the chesterfield and was seen only as a black streak during the next six months.

Viewing this fright, we decided she needed company. With the famous last words, “...after all, what’s one more...” We presented her with a Siamese kitten, Dara. Although only a bit older, Piada immediately picked her up and carted her to the den.

Later, after watching Piada soothe a German Shepherd which Dara had attacked, we thought seriously of providing her with a mate. In due course the kitten arrived and was promptly taken to the veterinarian where she was pronounced healthy. When released from his box at home, Piada

immediately greeted him and carted him into the den. It is a funny sensation. Anything with four legs gets carried off to the den, and I never get to see it for the next month.

It was love at first sight. We had to verify Toro’s sex as we had been sold Piada as a male only to discover her true sex when she actively and vocally expressed dislike at being called Sam.

We did not attempt to over-domesticate, but rather let them, as much as possible within the milieu, seek their own pattern. We did this as we had been frustrated by lack of information about them and wanted to make some observations. Fortunately, I do like long sleeves!

When Piada was 2 years old, she came into her first heat. They sought privacy, coming out only to eat and to visit. After

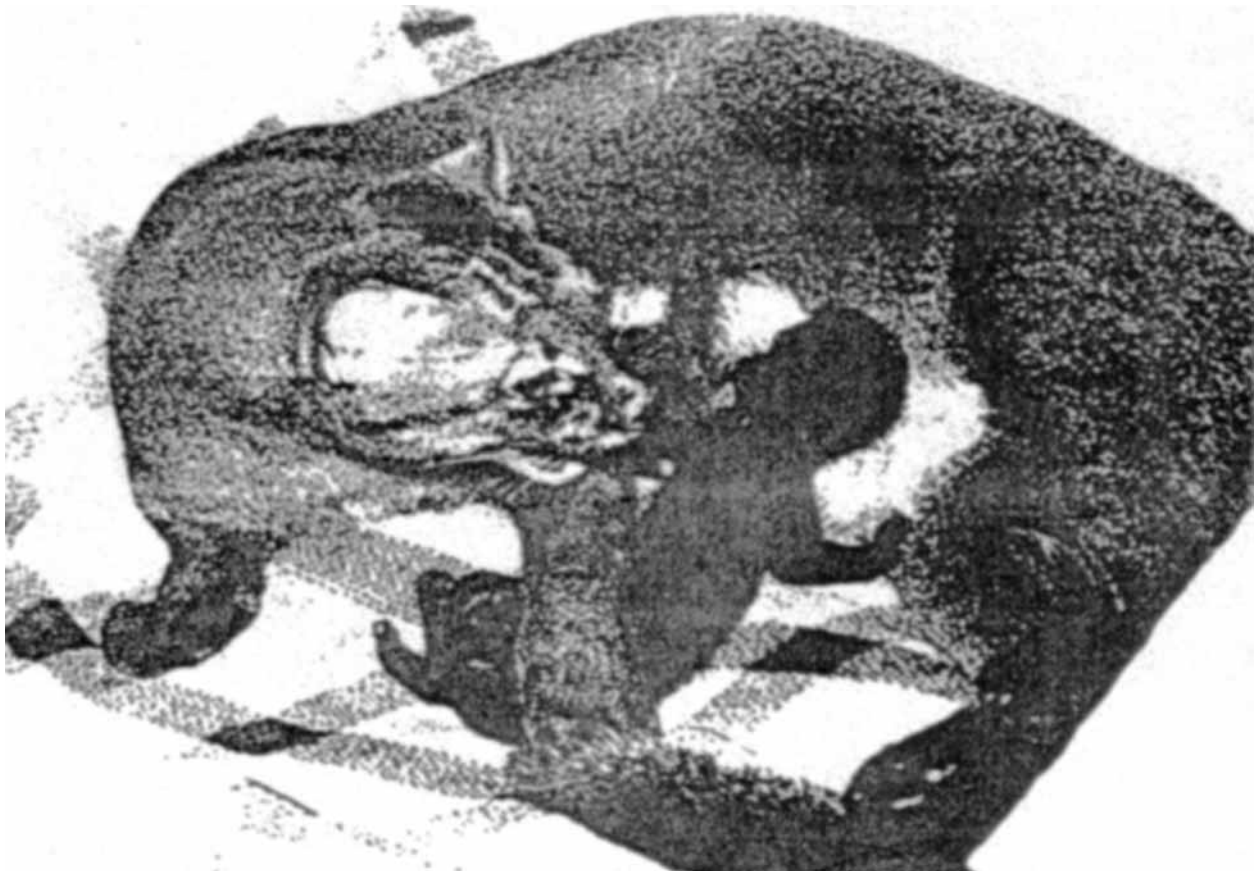
75 days gestation and a long labor, she delivered one kitten which did not survive. During labor, she demanded the presence of Toro, Dara, and me. (At least I made third place!) Delivery date was December 22, 1968.

The Second Time Around

Piada and Toro re-mated in April, 1969 and after 73 days of gestation, she began her labor. In the first stage of labor, she spent the time nipping my feet to make sure I was awake and admiring how well she shredded diapers to make her bed. Although she had been investigating several areas, she made her final choice: at the top of the bed which had been pulled back to provide her with an area about two feet wide.

The Birthing

This time she did not seek out Dara and



Just a few months before Piada gave birth, Kabuki (above) gave birth to the first domestic jaguarundis in LIOC history.

Toro, but seemed content with David and me (her foster parents, whether she liked it or not!) At 10:00 a.m. it was apparent that the first kitten was a tail presentation.

She attempted to aid herself and at 10:50 a.m. the kitten was born. She very deliberately picked it up and bounced it until it began to whistle.

The second kitten, normal presentation, was born at 11:10.

Number three arrived at 2:30 p.m. The cord was wrapped around the neck. I was ready to interfere but she varied her behavior. Whereas with the others, she had cleaned them first, with this one, she began on the cord, disposed of it, battered the kitten between her paws and, when it began whistling, started to clean it.

Number four arrived, normal presentation, at 5:40 p.m.

Later that evening, she allowed us to move her and clean the bedding down. Thereafter, whenever we appeared to change her bedding, she would move the kittens under our bed herself and return them when the change was completed.

Number 3 kitten did not seem to be able to nurse, whether because of her very small size or damage from the tight cord. We were going to supplement the feeding of the other kittens, thus giving her more of a chance at a teat. (Oh, yes, I can count only six teats. David was a little excited when he found more.) However, Piada seemed to feel that we should feed the small one under her supervision, of course. We fed her every hour (Enflac) for 48 hours. She seemed to gain strength very quickly and was soon fighting for a teat herself. Interestingly, she seemed in time to follow, very much her mother's "baby"—never more than inches

away.

A friend of mine often remarks that a jaguarundi must be born spitting. I would like to say it takes almost 24 hours to hiss, and almost three days for a good spit.

Getting to Know the Jags

Dara, the Siamese, was introduced to the kittens on the second day. She licked them, but did not want to remain too long. Then Toro came in. The kittens clambered to him and climbed over him. He was interested but a little overwhelmed by their welcome.

The kittens' eyes opened on the fifth day and they began to be more active. They had their teeth by three weeks and, in fact, Piada began bringing them her chicken wings.

We had been debating whether or not to postpone our holidays when we received news which made it imperative that we go to Alberta. As the kittens were just over three weeks old, the trip presented some problems. Eventually, we decided that as Piada knew us and enjoyed all the trips we had taken, that it was better to take her, and, of course, Toro. Dara was boarded and we set out by car. As soon as we started and Piada had "checked" the car, she settled down and began nursing. Toro played guard throughout the trip, checking every room we stopped in and when with my family, would take over their bunk beds, patrolling, while mother and kittens secluded themselves.

Piada, although nursing until ten weeks, began encouraging the kittens to imitate her, teaching them to drink from the bowl at six weeks. They had been receiving baby food from four weeks, and minced raw meat at six weeks. Since Piada offered all her food to them, and would not eat until

they finished, we had to feed her separately. Even Toro, whose one ambition is to eat 24 hours a day, would allow them to take food directly from his mouth. All kittens took food together until they were six weeks old, when they became jaguarundish—that is, every meal is their last and one has to get in there and fight. Thus one was reduced to spinning dishes into assorted areas at appropriate distances to prevent a concentrated charge.

We returned to Montreal by train. The cats far preferred car to train travel. Oddly enough, it seemed that railroad officials seemed to agree. Being faced with a woman's hysteria, they finally agreed that a baggage compartment was not to be considered.

Immediately upon reaching home, the cats took over the bedroom and we began to lose sleep as they scrambled over us. After a long battle, Piada finally agreed to accept the other rooms instead. Toro began to play more actively with the kittens and Piada settled down to their training—things like how to stay away from people, to hide until called and, in general, how to give me a nervous breakdown. Dara played Aunt: she would pick up one kitten, have it whistle, watch three adults charge in to see what happened.

As they grew they began spending more time with their father and Piada began taking short walks with Dara, leaving Toro to babysit. At two months, I was informed it was time to provide water to swim in. Piada tried to drop a kitten into my dishwasher. When a tub of water was provided, they spontaneously entered it.

Each kitten has developed his own personality. One male is very outgoing (he found out who provides the food) and the other is much shyer and follows big brother. The two females are more like their mother. One is somewhat aggressive but the other never moves too far from mother.

We have found, both with adults and kittens, the male is more easy-going, the female more nervous. I was unable to differentiate any change of eye coloring. All kittens and adults, are extremely playful. They would like you to toss balls and drag ropes all day. There are especially active periods both in the day and in the night.

And a normal sight is to see Toro, followed by four kittens, then Piada and Dara, solemnly walking single file down the hall.

Thus, from one small kitten we have progressed to cats in our beds, fridge, stove, records, hair—and in our hearts. •

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Patty Perry Appointed FCF Vice President

Patty Perry was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She has a broad spectrum, entrepreneurial business background. Ms. Perry has successfully devoted significant time to a wide variety of fundraising efforts during her lifetime and has worked and traveled internationally on many of her projects.

Ms. Perry established an Arabian horse breeding business in 1981 that concentrated on breeding superior individuals from stock she imported from all over the world. This early equine experience eventually led her into the world of wildlife.

For the past decade Ms. Perry has been devoted to rehabilitation of wildlife and educating the public. She has extensive experience with raptors as well as mammals, including felines. In 2006 she established Wildlife and Environmental Conservation, a non-profit organization that focuses on conservation education and features animals as varied as eagles to tigers.

Patty holds federal and state rehabilitation and education permits for eagles and all migratory birds. Patty is also USDA and California licensed to exhibit her raptors and felines in her wildlife programs.

Patty says she takes the issues of exotic animal ownership very seriously, believing that one must put in a lot of thought and consideration into the decision before making the commitment to obtain and care for these types of animals.

“There must be a viable purpose and motive involved,” she says. With this in mind, Patty recognizes that although exotics can and do become an emotional and personal part of her life, she does not consider them pets. “These trained ambassadors have a specific job,” says Patty, “and those of us that decide to pursue this responsibility need to be prepared.”

Patty’s love for animals and her dedication to education was the inspiration to assemble her unique group of exotic animals that serve as representatives for their species. Patty has spent nearly a decade in study, availing herself to continuing education opportunities and hands-on training. “It is critical to be experienced and knowledgeable before stepping out to raise awareness to the public,” she says, and adds, “This can be accomplished by seek-

ing information and working under good mentorship.”

Patty says that self-examination and knowing one’s limitations plays a big part in becoming a successful owner/educator. By working cooperatively with credible and experienced colleagues in the wildlife field, she has gained wisdom that has contributed to her excellent safety record.

The most recent additions to Patty’s wildlife education programs are a pair of endangered Bengal tiger cubs. The decision to expand her conservation message to include the endangered tiger of India did not come without first spending a lot of time in thought and seeking out trusted advice. Patty knew that she must choose the right animals and make sure they came from the best environment possible.

Patty flew to South Carolina to intern at T.I.G.E.R.S. where she worked with a variety of young tigers and learned their routine at the facility. By mentoring under Dr. Bhagavan Antle and the capable staff at T.I.G.E.R.S., she gained invaluable training on the handling of tigers and firsthand knowledge of tiger behavior. Patty was matched with Sajas and Prauna, a pair of six-month-old cubs. The bottle-raised pair was highly socialized and desensitized to a wide variety of stimulus. They were both

veterans of multiple programs, were handled by hundreds of people, and were experienced travelers as well.

Because of the excellent handling Sajas and Prauna received at T.I.G.E.R.S., they were conditioned to accept new people and new places and were ready to move confidently on to the next step in their lives. Robert Johnson drove the young tigers across the country to deliver them to Patty’s facility in Southern California. Robert remained for several days to help settle them in and insure that Patty and the cats were comfortable with each other and their new routine. Patty says the pair adjusted easily to the change and accepted her as their new provider and southern California as their home.

With a guarantee from Dr. Antle that he was always available and would assist in any way necessary, both Patty and the cubs have a safety net.

“We all must live up to higher standards as we proceed through this unique and magical journey. Those of us who keep these felines face constant scrutiny. Doing things the right way with the right intentions, and constantly improving our husbandry skills and knowledge is the power that will further our cause in a positive way.” •



Some Thoughts on the Husbandry Class

The FCF Feline Husbandry Course was held at Gulf Coast Community College on Saturday, February 21, 2009 in Panama City, FL.

What an informative, eye-opening, and wonderful course! I think what struck me most was the incredible responsibility involved in keeping wild felines. I came to understand not only the governmental regulation and permitting processes, but also proper facilities and equipment, nutrition and health issues, the importance of contingency planning, and the proper handling of these felids. What's more, I learned about environmental and behavioral conditioning, as well as effective enrichments for these cats kept in captivity for their own welfare and protection. This course deepened my respect for those who care for these cats and the enormous commitment of the cats' keepers and handlers—and the members of FCF.

—Carole Lapensohn

I've never interacted with cats larger than my seven house cats. Being a recent

(three months) volunteer at the Bear Creek Feline Center has opened my eyes to the world of larger cats. I find the cats fascinating and wonderful subjects to photograph. The FCF Wild Feline Husbandry Course was impressive to me especially with the range and depth of coverage of the exotic cat world. Lynn and Billie were excellent instructors.

—James Peacock

The text alone is a complete and invaluable outline guide for understanding the status, protection, and care of our wild feline species. Both instructors were great, and the classroom participation and discussion completed the experience.

—George DeLong

The course was grass roots all the way with basic information that would be fundamental for the beginner and certainly worthy of she or he who has long experience with these wonderful cats. That means the "pros" get the opportunity to remember once again the basics. That not only will keep them out of trouble but protect the

cats, which is what it's all about in the first place. Bravo for good course planning and good execution.

—Lee Lapensohn

It's definitely a lot to absorb in nine hours, but the instructors Lynn Culver and Billie Lambert did a good job making sure we all got all the information we needed. We learned all about the different species of cats, the way you bottle feed and care for cubs and kittens, nutritional information, laws regarding the ownership and transport of exotic cats, and caging recommendations.

After our tests, we stood outside the room waiting for everyone else to finish. Just like most students, we chatted about the test and how badly we thought we did. Fortunately, there was no badly to it. We all passed our tests.

The course is well worth the money and I would recommend it to anyone who has or is thinking about getting an exotic cat. You learn so much that you would normally only learn from years of trial and error.

—Amanda Libert



Jim Peacock

A “Back to School” Weekend in Panama City, Florida

By George and Marilyn DeLong

After many years as students in the classroom and then teaching students of all ages, we reversed roles and once again became students. The result was one of the most interesting and enjoyable classroom and lab (hands on) experiences ever. We are new to the FCF, having joined last summer at the convention at Myrtle Beach. Animals have always been a big part of our lives, but not until now have we been able to experience in a personal way the wild and endangered species. We are still in the learning and thought-processing mode, and the weekend in Panama City far exceeded our expectations.

First came the animal husbandry class, taught by Lynn Culver and assisted by Billie Lambert. The course is intense—no danger of going to sleep—but never have

we received more useful information in such a compact and well developed package. A happy group of students in a state of “information overload,” retired to a local barbeque house for some more relaxed social interaction.

Sunday brought crisp weather, clear skies, and a visit to Bear Creek Feline Center. This day will remain in our memories as one of the best and most enlightening of our lives. This was perfect timing to experience and observe much of what we were exposed to in the classroom. The day began with a delicious brunch in Jim and Bertie Broadus’ lovely home. A year ago we would have never envisioned enjoying good food and companionship in the midst of Florida panthers, mountain lions, while watching bobcats on video and petting the resident Maine Coon and Bengal.

Our tour began with the largest cats, Florida panthers and a mountain lion. Bear Creek owner, Jim Broadus, and Mike Myers, shared with us what much patience and daily attention will bring out of the majestic animals. Their enclosure incorporates much of the home and even allows the cougars to sleep on the deck outside the owners’ upper level bedroom. We were thrilled by the antics of Marilyn, the young Florida panther featured in the January/February FCF Journal. We were treated to the loudest purrs we have yet to hear. Also included was a short verbal course on the history, status, and identifying characteristics of the Florida panther.

Next stop was the new air conditioned den and enclosure for the Siberian lynx. Amanda Libert treated everyone to a demonstration of this lovely feline’s amaz-



Photos by Jim Peacock

ing agility. Watching them leap and spin in the air will take your breath away.

Intern Donna showed us the bobcats that were spending a quieter day but posed



obligingly for photos. Next stop brought multiple experiences. Kat Benford shared her jungle cat, which lives with her at home but was enjoying a day trip back to Bear Creek. Mike Myers showed us the two resident jaguarundis, cats many of us had never seen. Bertie made a solo trip to Prague, Czech Republic and returned to Bear Creek with these two rare cats. The male exhibited his best jaguarundi “leave me and my friend alone” behavior. Mike then explained that the hissing was defensive, rather than aggressive, as he held his hand near him with no adverse results.

We were then treated to varied serval experiences. Lynn King worked with several of the servals in one enclosure. Many of us were able to sit with Amanda Libert and pet her special serval friend, Bliss.

During the husbandry course, Billie Lambert shared with us “chick-on-a-stick” as an enrichment topic. We got to see this first hand on Sunday when Billie demonstrated her best technique with caracal Sally. For those who don’t know, chick-on-a-stick is a frozen chick on a string attached to a stick. It becomes prey and then snack item. Sally treated us to a variety of acrobatics, as she chased and then caught the chick. Also demonstrated were the best of caracal hisses as she consumed the last of her prey.

After the organized tour there were many revisits, discussions, interactions, and photographs with this wonderful group of felines. Jim and Bertie and their staff shared a great many experiences and a large body of knowledge with their visitors.



In thinking back over our visit to Bear Creek Feline Center, one thing stands out in our minds. We were amazed at the personal interaction and ownership of the cats shown by Jim and Bertie and every one of their staff members. We believe those who shared this day with us would agree that the cats are truly part of an extended family that exists at Bear Creek. The design of the facility allows the kind of interaction anyone would want for their cats. •

SANDUSKY

by John Prengaman



Carol Cochran Appointed Region 3 Director

Carol Cochran was appointed Region 3 Director of the Field Representative Program.

I have been involved with animals, both exotic and domestic, for over 50 years in working and caring for felines. My experience ranges from time with the Cole Brother's Circus in the early sixties, to having an educational wildlife show traveling from Florida to Canada for eight years. Now I raise Bengal cats and am planning to get a serval in the spring.


My love for animals has made me very dedicated to argue or fight for the right of responsible private ownership. I have attended many city and county council meetings to gain the acceptance of the American Tundra Shepherd. I have helped to get other exotic animal ownership approved in different regions.

I have held the position of president and vice-president of the American Tundra Shepherd Club and the Greater Kansas City Working K-9 Club and I have worked as a licensed, professional dog show judge, licensed breed warden, associate breeder, regional state representative for Missouri, licensed dog trainer, and animal behavior consultant.

My employment history includes working in the accounts receivable field for many years, working in collections and skip tracing departments, as well as customer service.

I have also worked as secretary and office manager in the animal industry with Midwest K-9 Training Estates and Global Kennel Club, Inc. •





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*Protecting Your rights
To own Animals
since 1990*

Polly Britton
Legislative Agent

Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program

The members of the FCF board of directors are proud to announce that during the months of January and February, the following individuals have made application for and been accepted into the Registered Exotic Feline Handler Program.

Leah Afill—basic
Nancy Vandermeij—advanced
Eric Baralow—basic
Kathrin Stucki—advanced
Alan Strachan—advanced

Apprillyn White—basic
Kurt Beckelman—basic
Chuck Bunnell—advanced
Karen Bunnell—advanced

The registration of our members' handling experience aids the FCF in speaking for the qualifications of our members and this organization to speak for and represent proper husbandry and captive management. FCF provides input to legislators and regulatory agencies that make decisions that affect ownership, breeding, or exhibiting of cats. Registration of more members increases the weight and authority of our comments.

A new online registration form can be filled out directly and now payment can be made through PayPal. Additionally, when making updates, you can view your previous experience and add new experiences to build your handler experience file.

The online form for this program can be found in the members-only section of the FCF web site:
<http://www.felineconservation.org>

The fee for registration is \$30 per member. The registration remains active as long as you are an FCF member.

The board further hopes that members will also take the next step and further show their support for excellence in the care of their cats by applying for the FCF Facility Accreditation Program. The overview, basic standards, and application can also be found on the FCF website.

Congratulations to all of these members for their dedication to their cats.

Joe Fortunato
FCF Secretary

First Person: Board of Directors Meeting

By Kurt Beckelman

On January 24, 2009 the new FCF board met in Nashville, Tennessee. Some members of this board held positions during the past two years while others, like me, were new to the board. This was my first opportunity to meet many of the board members in person. The purpose of this meeting was to gain a fundamental understanding of the scope of our duties and the direction of the organization and to train the new board members. You can read the minutes in this issue of the journal. Each of us put aside our personal business and lives to devote an entire weekend to making the FCF an organization that will continue to improve.

Friday was a day of arrival. Most of us made it there by sunset, though Lynn and I spent a while in front of the wrong motel, trying to figure out which motel was the right one. Pat Callahan, FCF's new conservation director did not arrive until after midnight. Dan Stockdale, FCF's director of public relations, lives in Tennessee and he drove in first thing Saturday morning. Bobby Bean, former director of marketing lived nearby and he dropped in to visit with the new board members Friday evening.

We were lodged at the Residence Inn. Women shared one room, and the men shared another. If you haven't slept in a room of snoring men, I don't suggest it. No one snores in unison. Friday evening we gathered in the women's' room to exchange ideas, talk about how to make the FCF a

better organization, and share stories. Sometime during the conversation our stomachs started growling, which told us it was time to eat.

Waking up Saturday we were greeted with ice. The beautiful weather we enjoyed Friday turned into an icy blast sometime during the night. We ate breakfast then started the meeting at 9:00 a.m. For me personally, being new to the board, it was inspiring. It gave me reason to think the FCF is a very viable organization and what we were accomplishing has an impact on not only the present but also the future. As with any organization there are disagreements but I was impressed how Kevin led the meeting to insure that everyone had the opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas and in the end the group as a whole made decisions. Kevin presided over the meeting and ran it with flair in his humorous way. We broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and had some of the best pizza around. It reminded me of New York style. After lunch I was back to work. The meeting continued until about 6:00 p.m. that evening. After ending the meeting, we went out to eat once again. It's amazing how hungry one gets during a meeting.

After dinner we continued to share our experience, goals, and what we each do in our own lives. I saw firsthand that even though we may not all agree on everything, for the most part, we are all in the FCF for the same purpose.

There were animals involved too. Lynn and I drove from Mena, Arkansas with two adult Geoffroys in the back seat of Lynn's Infiniti. These were being transported to Betsy Whitlock to add to her Geoffroy breeding program. The pair spent the day in the girls' kitchen in their large kennels before continuing on their journey to North Carolina with Betsy. Erin and Billie drove up from Florida with an adult caracal they picked up at the Gulf Breeze Zoo that needed to be returned to Bobby Bean who lives in the area. Kevin drove down with "special" chickens in his van that he wanted Betsy to take with her to deliver to a chicken enthusiast in North Carolina. The chickens were in cardboard boxes, and when Betsy loaded them along with the Geoffroys into her vehicle, it was quite an interesting mix for her four-hour drive home. I wonder what the Geoffroy's thought. Seems that with these people, there will always be animals involved.

Sunday we gathered for breakfast before leaving. The staff at the Residence Inn was wonderful and the breakfast buffet was delicious. Joe Fortunato and Silvia Gerber both caught a plane home and the rest of us began packing to drive away. Kevin seemed very happy passing the treasurer items over to me. He was almost chuckling as he was giving them away. Now that I have been at this position for six weeks, I think I know why he was so happy to be free of the bookkeeping. •



Kurt Beckelman, Joe Fortunato, Dan DeArmond



Kevin Chambers, Pat Callahan, Sylvia Gerber, Lynn Culver, Betsy Whitlock

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, January 24, 2009

Nashville, TN

9:00 a.m. President Kevin Chambers called the meeting to order. Present were Kevin Chambers, Kurt Beckelman, Sylvia Gerber, Pat Callahan, Ron DeArmond, Billie Lambert, Dan Stockdale, Betsy Whitlock, Joe Fortunato, Robert Johnson, and guests Lynn Culver and Erin Patters.

Secretary's Report: Moved by Dan Stockdale and seconded by Sylvia Gerber to ratify the approval of the December 15, 2008 board meeting minutes. 10 yes votes, motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: Kurt Beckelman reported he has opened an Oklahoma Credit Union checking account. He has applied for an FCF credit card. He has transferred funds from the Harris Bank account to the Oklahoma checking. Kurt reported that Wells Fargo told him that the checking account is undergoing testing and will be operational any day now. This account is tied to the Earth Class Mail account.

Old Business: Discussion of the sliding membership dues based upon join date and the difficulty of advertizing and publishing brochures led to a motion by Kurt Beckelman and seconded by Robert Johnson to standardize new membership dues to a straight fee of \$35 US, \$40 Canada and \$50 International no matter when a person joins. Betsy proposed that she note credits for new members that join after the first of the year and new members will be informed of their credit at \$3 per month to be applied toward renewal fees or be donated.

Lynn Culver proposed Registered Feline Handler registration be switched from annual to lifetime. Moved by Sylvia and seconded by Betsy, Handler registration fee will be \$30 per member and no fees charged for updates. An article about the changes will be printed in an upcoming FCF journal. 10 yes votes, motion passes.

Billie Lambert discussed GoodShop and GoodSearch. She will register the FCF as a charity for these internet functions. The FCF gets a percentage when members use GoodShop for booking travel accommodations through Expedia.com. The FCF also

gets a fee every time anyone uses GoodSearch as a search engine.

Vice President: Kevin nominated Patty Perry for Vice President. 10 yes votes, motion passes.

Executive Director: Kevin Chambers presented the board with a job description for a contract labor position of Executive Director. The board had previously worked through these duties and no changes were proposed. The Executive Director is expected to perform a minimum of 20 to 40 hours of work weekly and keep written documentation of time spent and work accomplished. The Executive Director will be paid at the end of each month \$1,666.66. Moved by Kurt and seconded by Robert, approve Executive Director job description and contract labor salary and hire Lynn Culver as Executive Director for the FCF. 10 yes votes, motion passes.

Kevin asked for a list of committees and members.

Conservation: Pat Callahan, Mindy Stinner, Dr. Terry Moore, Robert Bean, Nancy Vandermeij, Jim Sanderson, Jason Herrick
Education: Mindy Stinner, Ron DeArmond, Billie Lambert, Dan Stockdale, Dr. Sue Billiar

Journal: Judith Hoffman, Raven Simon, Carol Cochran, Lynn Culver, Mike Friese, Robert Hohn

Development Committee: Tabatha Klibert, Erin Patters

Wildcat Safety Net committee: Carolyne Alexander

Field Rep Program: Sylvia moved, and Robert seconded, to appoint Carol Cochran as Region 3 Director. 10 yes votes, motion passes

Betsy moved and Sylvia seconded to amend the husbandry course programs and policy to eliminate the prohibition against having two courses within 500 miles in a two-month period. 10 yes votes, motion passes

Facility accreditation reciprocity with ZAA was discussed and placed on hold for now.

Inflammatory comments on Yahoo list: Kevin moved and Sylvia seconded to add

"inflammatory comments" to the list of prohibited activities on the FCF Yahoo list rules. 10 yes votes, motion passed.

Terms for appointed committee positions. Kevin informed the board that committee appointments do not presently have a set term. Moved by Kurt and seconded by Rob to amend bylaw 6.2 by adding, "Appointees serve concurrently with the appointing board of directors." 10 yes votes, motion passes.

Husbandry textbook changes. Sylvia showed the board several changes she has made to the husbandry course modules. Several test questions are changed, and some updates to the nutrition module are in the works. A bonus point question may also be added to the test.

Ohio Association of Animal Owners: Betsy moved, Robert Johnson seconded to accept reciprocal advertising, not memberships, with OAAO. 10 yes votes, motion passes.

AZA Felid Tag. The Point Defiance Zoo, in Tacoma, Washington, is hosting this year's TAG. Pat and Sylvia are planning to attend. Pat will contact Bill Swanson to be scheduled as an FCF speaker. This year's theme is education. Ron DeArmond and Sylvia will create a PowerPoint presentation that Pat Callahan will give for the FCF. Travel allowance is available in the amount of \$400 and requires that recipient provide a written article for journal publication prior to reimbursement.

Lynn Culver redesigned the FCF renewal forms to a single page to limit the scanning fees from Earth Class Mail. Renewal forms will offer members the choice to renew to October 2009 or October 2010.

Sylvia proposed developing a resource list on the members website for emergency situations and response teams.

FCF brochures: Dan Stockdale presented the updated FCF brochure. Several changes were requested. Lynn presented two printing bids and Dan had another. Rob moved and Pat seconded, that 10,000 brochures be printed using PSPrint.com. Brochures will be mailed to Lynn and she

will fill orders from members who can request brochures for their local vets, zoos, and other appropriate businesses.

California Pet Expo: Moved by Betsy and seconded by Dan, that FCF reserve a booth at this Expo and Ron, Bobby Bean, Sylvia, and Dan will be the committee to develop materials and messages for the event. 10 yes votes, motion passes

Moved by Betsy and seconded by Robert to offer annual journal subscriptions to the public for \$25 US addresses only. 10 yes votes, motion passes

Kevin gave a report on the status of FCF Journal advertisers and convention vendors.

Convention Update: Convention chair Dan Stockdale planned for the 2009 convention to be in San Diego with a field trip to the San Diego Zoo. The alternative destination was Monterey. Lynn Culver requested Dan contact Doc Antle and Charlie Sammut to pursue Monterey and a field trip to Vision Quest Ranch in Salinas, CA. Dan reported he had spoken to Doc Antle, but not Charlie yet. The board reviewed the Wildthings.com web site and discussed expenses involved. There are two accessible airports and shuttle service in the area. Vision Quest Ranch would provide an experience comparable to Doc Antle's T.I.G.E.R.S. Preserve in Myrtle Beach, SC. Kurt moved and Sylvia seconded that Dan pursue moving the 2009 convention to Monterey. 7 yes votes, 3 abstains, motion passes

Ron DeArmond reported he would be creating a marketing strategy.

FCF Store: Billie Lambert gave a presentation on Zazzle.com for merchandising FCF products. The FCF receives 10% on every sale and 25% for every sale that comes from the FCF web site. All proceeds will benefit the wildcat safety net fund.

Website newsletter: Lynn reported that she has not launched this marketing and public relations tool yet, but plans to in the next month. The online newsletter will be free and presently 160 people have signed up for it. It will promote the FCF and its members and will also target non-cat mem-

bers for financial and public opinion support.

Washington Legislative Meeting: Rob Johnson attended the pre and post inauguration galas and will be reporting in the March journal.

Hybrids: A discussion on hybrids concluded with an agreement that hybrids do not qualify for handler experience and FCF facility accreditation will only examine enclosures and management of wild cats, not hybrids.

Ethics Committee: Formulating an ethics guideline for members was discussed. A committee was formed to come up with a draft. Those on the committee are

Sylvia, Dan, and Betsy.

Jim Sanderson's Chile Project: Jim has presented a plan to create a permanent station in Chile. The location will be within the habitat of Andean cat and Pampas cat, as well as other wildlife species. The building is being donated, but it needs renovation. The projected cost is \$85,000 and Jim has pledged \$21,000. The Rare Species Fund has pledged \$5,000 toward this project. Once the building is renovated, it will be available for researchers and scientists. The March FCF Journal will feature an article on this project and how the members may contribute. FCF will pursue fund raising for more money toward this project. •

**When buying from
our advertisers,
always tell them you
saw it in the
FCF Journal!**

Donations

The FCF membership and the board of directors wish to offer a special thanks to the following individuals who have made donations to various projects over the past few months. These donations make it possible for the FCF to provide additional funding for special projects, fight negative legislation, and support conservation projects which we might not be able to fund as fully in our annual budget.

We thank these contributors for their special effort and encourage others to follow their example by helping to provide extra funding for those projects that are of special interest to each individual.

Project: General Funding

George Delong
John Lanzendorf

Project: Wildcat Safety Fund

John Hul

The FCF appreciates your generosity and continued support.

Joseph Fortunato
Secretary, FCF

FOCUS ON NATURE®
Insight into the lives of animals
PAMPAS CAT
(ONCIFELIS COLOCOLO)



Several different coat patterns belong to the PAMPAS CAT. Each pattern is unique to the cat's particular habitat which varies from pampas grasslands to swamps to dry scrub. The range of this adaptable 3-4 kg (7-9 lb) wildcat extends from Ecuador and Brazil south to Patagonia, including the Andes.

Rochelle Mason raises awareness about endangered species through her paintings, columns, and traveling exhibits. Her wildcat paintings and prints are sold through www.Rmasonfinearts.com



Clockwise from top: Pile o' servals—Cathy Spohrer • Caracal Crackers cuddles canine—Theresa Shaffer • Judy Berens and her ocelot, Macho Man, show off their matching footwear • Tim Stark's baby ocelot Bella Rose marches to the beat of her own drum

Your best Shot





FELINE CONSERVATION FEDERATION CONVENTION 2009!

The Call of the Wild!

WHERE: Vision Quest Ranch
Monterey-Salinas, California

WHEN: July 22-25, 2009

HOTEL: Laurel Inn, Salinas, California
(831) 449-2474 www.laurelinnhotel.com
Reservation deadline June 30, 2009.
\$86/night includes continental breakfast.
Call now and mention "FCF" to reserve your room!

CONVENTION ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY

- ★ *Basic Wild Feline Husbandry Course*
- ★ **NEW** *Wildcat Conservation Educator's Course:*

This course will have its inaugural class at the 2009 convention. Learn the latest and best methods for educating the public on conservation issues.

THURSDAY

- ★ Afternoon registration and auction donation drop-off.
- ★ **Evening Ice Breaker:** Join us as we greet old friends and meet new ones!

FRIDAY

- ★ **Wild Things Day!**
Bring your cameras and spend the day experiencing a working exotic animal ranch! Children must be at least 12 years old to participate.
- ★ **Evening On Your Own:** Use public transportation to create your own special evening. Visit Cannery Row and the world famous Monterey Bay.



SATURDAY

- ★ **Speakers:** Learn the latest in conservation, safety, husbandry and more!

- ★ **NEW Advanced Wildcat Handling:**



Learn advanced handling techniques as Hollywood animal trainer, Charlie Sammut, teaches this special class for **Registered Handlers Only**. Register online now to gain access to this class. The fee to become a registered handler includes admission to this class.

- ★ **Banquet and Auction:** Enjoy an evening of great food under the stars at *Vision Quest Ranch* with an exotic "dinner guest" or two. Then, have your cash handy for the annual FCF auction!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Individual:** \$195 per person before June 30,
\$225 per person July 1 and after.
- Kid's Rate:** \$75 per child age 12-18 years old. Children under 12 free!
- Husbandry Course:** \$95 for members,
\$130 for non-members
- Educators Course:** \$95 for members,
\$130 for non-members
- Registered Handler's Course:** Free to registered handlers